WEDNESDAY
January 22, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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West Bengal has been on a path of progress and all round development, under the guidance of

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Mamata Banerjee

Tourism

- West Bengal is home to 16 wildlife sanctuaries and 6 national parks
- 20 luxury cruises are currently operational in West Bengal making river tourism poised for major growth
- Kolkata's Durga Puja is recognised as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
- West Bengal is home to 3 UNESCO heritage treasures: Sundarbans, Santiniketan and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- West Bengal offers state-of-the-art MICE facilities, with three in Kolkata, positioning it as a leading South-East Asia destination
- With 5,165 homestays, West Bengal stands as India's leading homestay destination
- 32 super-luxury hotels will open in West Bengal in 2025-26, expanding its star-category offerings

Exports

- West Bengal's steel and steel products are key export commodities, consistently ranking among the top five in recent years
- West Bengal merchandise exports are pegged at over ₹97,600 crore in 2023-24
- West Bengal is among the top 10 exporting states of India
- West Bengal's over 30 large cement manufacturing plants are increasing and meeting international demands
- Cement plants in West Bengal have an added advantage for exports due to proximity to a large number of ports (sea, air and land ports)

BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

5-6 February '25

wbidc
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R.G. KAR SENTENCE

Bengal govt. moves HC seeking death penalty

NEWS » PAGE 12

ROW OVER ART

Court orders seizure of M.F. Husain paintings

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TESTING TIMES

Putin, Xi reiterate their close ties

WORLD » PAGE 16

DATA POINT

Undocumented migrants in the United States

A vital workforce with low criminality

OPINION » PAGE 11

T20 SERIES

Focus on Shami as India faces England

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

'BJP is creating antagonism'

BELAGAVI
Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday countered the BJP's allegation that the party had "insulted" B.R. Ambedkar, arguing that the saffron party was only "repeating a lie" in the hope of "twisting history" to create artificial differences between leaders such as Gandhiji and Ambedkar. » Page 6

Munirathna and six others booked

BENGALURU
Munirathna, MLA, is in trouble again after the RMC Yard police registered an FIR against him and six of his associates for alleged land grabbing and atrocity. » Page 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGES 4 & 5

Trump declares end to U.S. citizenship by birth

Democratic-led States challenge order that could affect thousands of Indians in the U.S.; President also threatens 100% tariffs on BRICS countries if they attempt to move to 'non-dollar' transactions

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Shortly after being sworn in on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order cancelling the provision of "citizenship by birth", which could directly affect thousands of Indian professionals working in the U.S. under H-1B and other temporary visas, who hoped to raise their families there.

Mr. Trump also said he planned to levy "100% taxes" on BRICS countries for attempting to move to "non-dollar" transactions, referring to the 10-nation grouping of emerging economies that includes India.

"As a BRICS nation, they'll have a 100% tariff if they so much as even think about doing what they thought, and therefore they will give it up immediately," he said, erroneously referring to Spain as a BRICS member.

Signing spree: U.S. President Trump throws pens used to sign Executive Orders to the crowd in Washington on Monday. AP

In addition, Mr. Trump's plans to crack down on undocumented and illegal immigrants could hit about 7.25 lakh Indians, of which nearly 18,000 are already on a "final list for removal" or deportations.

Move challenged

A coalition of 18 Democratic-led States along with the District of Columbia and city of San Francisco filed a lawsuit in federal court in Boston on Tuesday arguing that the Republican President's effort to end birthright citizenship was a flagrant violation of the U.S. Constitution.

As concerns grew in India over the announcements, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was set to meet incoming U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss priorities for the India-U.S. bilateral relationship and the Quad.

The one-on-one meeting, which would be Mr. Rubio's first with any foreign dignitary, was due to take place on Tuesday afternoon in Washington, following a meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers.

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INAUGURAL DRAMA
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 9, 15 & 16

Indian stock markets hit as Trump takes charge in U.S.

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump's first day in office proved to be a torrid Tuesday for the Indian stock markets with the benchmark indices sinking to their lowest point in about seven months, and all sectoral gauges ending up sharply in the red.

The BSE Sensex plunged 1,235 points to close at 75,838, a level last seen on June 6, 2024, and the NSE Nifty fell 320 points to 23,024, marking a 13% decline from its peak in late September. Analysts attributed the sharp downturn to concerns about Mr. Trump's plans to enhance import tariffs and his warning of a 100% duty on products from BRICS nations.

Midcap and smallcap stock indices snapped a five-day rising streak, dropping 2.3% on the NSE.

Trump pardons Jan. 6 Capitol riot convicts

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump, on his first day in office, has pardoned, commuted the prison sentences, or vowed to dismiss the cases of all of the 1,500-plus people charged with crimes in the January 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot, undoing the massive prosecution of the unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy.

Mr. Trump's action paved the way for the release from prison of people found guilty of violent attacks on police, as well as leaders of far-right extremist groups convicted of failed plots to keep the Republican in power after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Democrat Joe Biden.

Democrats slammed the move to extend the pardons to violent rioters, many of whose crimes were captured on camera and broadcast on live TV. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it "an outrageous insult to our justice system and the heroes who suffered physical scars and emotional trauma as they protected the Capitol, the Congress, and the Constitution." "Donald Trump is ushering in a Golden Age for people that break the law and attempt to overthrow the government," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

WHO chief urges U.S. to reconsider its exit decision

NEW DELHI
After President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. would exit World Health Organization, WHO Director-General, Tedros Ghebreyesus said he hoped the country would reconsider the decision. » PAGE 13

Central committee member among 14 Maoists killed in Gariaband encounter

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

At least 14 Maoists have been killed in Gariaband district along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha boundary, the police said on Tuesday.

The police had on Monday said the number of fatalities in the anti-Maoist operation was two but updated the figures based on the bodies recovered after the operation.

Those killed include Jayaram, alias Chalpati, a senior member of the central committee, the highest decision-making body of the Maoists, carrying a bounty of ₹1 crore, Gariaband Superintendent of Police Nikhil Rakhecha told *The Hindu*.

Security forces at Bhaludiggi Hill, near the Odisha-Chhattisgarh boundary, in Gariaband on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A large cache of arms and ammunition has also been recovered, he said, adding that there could be a possibility of more Maoists being killed.

The operation was carried out in the area of Mainpur police station by a joint team of security personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) from Chhattisgarh, and Special Operation Group (SOG) from Odisha.

A CoBRA member had sustained minor injuries.

'Mighty blow'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday described the operation as "another mighty blow" to Naxalism.

"Another mighty blow to Naxalism. Our security forces achieved major success towards building a Naxal-free Bharat," the Home Minister wrote on social media platform X.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated the security forces on the encounter and said the State will be free from Maoism by March 2026.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Kerala Assembly calls for fresh UGC norms

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of the draft University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations of 2025.

The resolution urges the Centre to review the proposed norms and to introduce a fresh set of guidelines after thorough consultations with State governments, academics, and other stakeholders to ensure that the interests of all parties are adequately considered.

The move follows a call by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who urged other States to pass resolutions similar to the one recently adopted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

Pinarayi Vijayan

The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, flags the guidelines as inconsistent with India's federal structure and says it fails to reflect the principles laid down in the Constitution.

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BBMP to auction properties of chronic tax defaulters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has announced the auction of immovable properties belonging to chronic property tax defaulters in a bid to recover outstanding tax dues.

The civic body has already issued eight to 10 notices to property tax defaulters for the auction, said BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil.

This action, carried out under Section 156(5) of the BBMP Act, 2020, comes after a range of measures to collect the dues failed. The measures included issuance of show-cause notices, demand notices, property attachment orders, and sealing of non-residential properties.

As a final resort, these properties are now being put up for the auction. Any surplus funds generated from the auction after recovering the outstanding dues will be deposited in the defaulters' bank accounts, Mr. Moudgil said.

Initially, eight to 10 top defaulters identified from various zones with arrears ranging between ₹1 crore and ₹2 crore have been served auction notices.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

In Belgium, it's more of a tactical game while here it is really intense

You're a bit like a role model for them even though I don't really like that word, because we all know something about hockey, we all try to teach each other. I learn a lot from how they play and they learn a lot about me

R.V. MOORTHY

INTERVIEW

Antoine Kina

Y.B. Sarangi

For Antoine Kina, a member of the illustrious Belgium team that dominated world hockey for a few years, participating in the Hockey India League (HIL) is a unique experience.

Sporting the Vedanta Kalinga Lancers colours in the HIL, the 28-year-old versatile midfielder - who was part of the junior World Cup silver medal winning Belgian side, graduated to the elite side in 2017 and became an important member of the national team that won titles in 2018 World Cup, 2019 Eurohockey championships and the 2020 Olympics - has observed a different outlook toward life (while spending time with his Indian teammates) and has been playing a different style of hockey in the HIL.

Relishing his new experience, Kina spoke about his views about the league and his fellow players in an interaction with *The Hindu*.

Tell us about the golden generation of Belgian hockey players, including you. Having won some of the big medals together, there must be a good bonding, interpersonal relationship and camaraderie within the team.

Yes, my campaign started in 2018, when we said, 'Okay, we want to win everything - the World Cup, Olympics and European championship. We said it's hockey first, we have to be like a family, grow together, get to know each other well. Every day at the training ground, we had a lot of fun also. It was easy to bond. If you start winning, it's also always easier to become closer. At the end, we all said that we are brothers and a big, nice family.

Paris Olympics must be heartbreaking as Belgium was the only undefeated side in the tournament during the pool stage but could not get a medal.

GETTY IMAGES

Yes, that was quite hard. We played our pool phase well, everything was going well, maybe a bit too well. We never had to put ourselves in question. Then we had a match against Spain where we didn't dare to play. We lost a bit of the fighting spirit that we had. It's quite a pity. It was a nice end for our team because a lot of guys stopped. We are also really good friends. We all know each other well. Now it's time to build a new team.

> My father is still a coach. He coaches me in Belgium, in my club. I became a good player because of him. I'm really grateful and thankful (to him) for making me the player that I am today

What is the difference between playing in the Belgian league and the HIL?

It's a different kind of hockey. In Belgium, it's quite a lot about the structure. It's a little bit more of a tactical game. Here it is really intense. A lot of really nice actions. It's different, but I like playing both. It's really enjoyable because here it's more attacking and (about) creating nice actions... The team celebrations here are really nice, what we don't do in Belgium. It's cool to see that everybody is creating his own celebration, his own team environment.

Have you gelled well with your teammates in the Kalinga Lancers team?

I go really well with a lot of guys. I'm not a really difficult guy. I live day by day and try to get to know the guys really well. It's a different culture. I need to adapt a bit to how they live. But how they live is really nice. They're really touchy and hugging people. They say when they trust you, you're like a brother to them. It's really nice to hear that. They're really nice and funny guys. I have a good connection with all of them.

Have you made any new friends and what have you learned from them?

Yes, I made a lot of new friends with eight guys from my team. I went (out) once to (play) a video game with just my Indian teammates. What I learned from them is that they care a lot. They're always happy. I find it beautiful that they live day by day. Everything is beautiful. Even if sometimes it's difficult, they're still happy, try to enjoy and don't complain. That's great...

We have the youngest team. You try to learn and teach them a lot of things. They all listen to you. You're a bit like a role model for them even though I don't really like that word, because we all know something about hockey, we all try to teach each other. I learn a lot from how they play and they learn a lot about me. I try to help them a lot, try to teach them and I hope they grow and become better by seeing me or other foreign guys play.

What has been the best moment for you so far in the HIL?

There were a lot of good moments, but also a lot of bad moments. But I think a lot of the good moments are when we won back-to-back matches, that was really nice because we played really well, progressed a lot. I just enjoy myself every day. I hope the results could be a bit better. But for the rest, every moment is really nice. I learn a lot every day. And it's a great experience. I love it.

A lot of field goals have been scored so far in the league. What are your thoughts on this?

I think that's good. That makes hockey attractive to watch. It means attacking-wise, we have a lot of good players in the competition. Maybe the negative thing is that the defence is a bit less, but I don't think so. There are really good defenders here. There are a lot of great actions and the goals are coming. It's good, attractive for the supporters.

Tell us about your background. Your father (Pascal) is a hockey coach. How did it help you grow as a player?

My father is still a coach. He coaches me in Belgium, in my club. I became a good player because of him. I'm really grateful and thankful (to him) for making me the player that I am today... I'm really grateful. I owe him a lot in my life.

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

SCO 74-75, BANK SQUARE, SECTOR-17B CHANDIGARH
PBX: 0172-5197847, 5197846

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PSWC invites online tenders through GeM Portal for creation of 2.40 LMT godown capacities in the State of Punjab for guaranteed lease of 10 years on Build, Own and Lease basis for storage requirements of FCI under two bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.
NIT (alongwith GeM Bid IDs) is available on Department's website i.e. **https://pswc.in**
Note: Any corrigendum(s)/Notification(s) to this Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be published Department's website & GeM Portal.

PSWC/12/64/2023/41002

EX SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

Stn ECHS Cell, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560 001

BUILDING REQUIRED FOR POLYCLINIC, WHITEFIELD BANGALORE

A building with an area of about 2000 square feet on the ground floor or on the first floor with Lift Facility having a hall and verandah, six to eight rooms and adequate number of toilets is required for Govt. of India, ECHS (Ex Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme), in Whitefield area, Kannamangala Panchayat, Bangalore City. Also, there should be additional open space for generator and ambulance. There is no advance payment. Rent is negotiable.

Interested building owners may contact OIC Station ECHS Cell, HQ K & K Sub Area on 080-25322873 (E-mail id - echscellbangalore@ gmail.com) or alternate mobile no: 9742403679 (Kannada) by 31 Jan 2025.

ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ

4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಮಿಂಟೋ ಶ್ರೀ ಆಂಜನೇಯ ಭವನ, ಆಲೂರು ವೆಂಕಟರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು –18. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 26709689 / 26706775,
Email: endowmentcommissioner@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: HRICE-CDMS0CD/37/2024-CDMSEND-HRICE1514143 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.01.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಿಂದ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಮಾನಸ ಸರೋವರ, ಚಾರ್‌ಧಾಮ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಶಿ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಾಯಧನವನ್ನು ವಿತರಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.10.2024 ರಿಂದ 15.01.2025ರವರೆಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.02.2025** ರವರೆಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

–:ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:–

* ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಮಾನಸ ಸರೋವರ, ಚಾರ್‌ಧಾಮ್ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಶಿ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಾಯಧನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ತಮ್ಮ ಆಧಾರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು ತಮ್ಮ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ (Seeding) ಹಾಗೂ NPCI Active ಆಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
* ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ನಿಗದಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕದೊಳಗೆ ಆಧಾರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯು ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಖಾತೆಗೆ ಲಿಂಕ್ (Seeding) ಆಗದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಹವರ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮಾದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4479/ಆಕಾರ್/2024–25

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL

1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2024-25/IND0016 Date: 20.01.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Procurement of 329 Overhead Scanners to all Taluk Offices of Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender form in e-Procurement portal is **31-01-2025 by 5.30 P.M.**
Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner,
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/4472/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that on behalf of our Clients, we are scrutinizing the right and title of the owner, **Mr. K. Satyanarayana Raju**, son of Late Mr. Doreswamy Raju, residing at No. 1182, HIG, 9th B Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru – 560 064 (referred to herein as the "**Owner**"), to the immovable property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and referred to herein as the "**Schedule Property**". The Owner has represented that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owner has further represented that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, lien, litigation and/ or any third-party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm or institution has or asserts any right, title or interest by way of sale, lease, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, objection, agency, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, assignment, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction order or attachment or award passed by any court or authority, litigation, *lis-pendens*, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, FSI, tenancy, development rights, family arrangement /settlement, allotment, acquisition, requisition, beneficial right / interest under any trust, claim, demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall be conclusively presumed and deemed that the Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction in respect of the Schedule Property and shall be presumed that there are no claims and that claims, if any, have been waived. Any objections and/ or claims received after the expiry of the notice period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

SCHEDULE
SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing amalgamated **BBMP Municipal Khatha No. 404/420/1285/395/367&388**, measuring on the East to West: 180 feet and on the North to South: 50 feet, totally admeasuring an extent of **9,000 square feet** [earlier being separate properties viz., (i) property bearing BBMP Municipal Khatha No. 420/1285/395/367, erstwhile KHB Site No. 367, measuring an extent of 4,500 square feet; and (ii) property bearing BBMP Municipal Khatha No. 420/1310/388, erstwhile KHB Site No. 388, measuring an extent of 4,500 square feet], situated at Ward No. 4, **HIG III Phase**, **A – Sector**, **Yelahanka New Town**, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru – 560 064, and bounded as follows:

On the East by : 80 Feet Road;
On the West by : 30 Feet Road;
On the North by : Site No. 366 & 387; and
On the South by : Site No. 368 & 389.

C.R. Muralidharan, Partner
Vinuth Gowda, Partner

Place: Bengaluru
Dated: January 22, 2025

DUA ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Solicitors
130/1, 2nd Floor, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru – 560 042
Phone: 91-80-25588799 / 25589909
E-mail: murali@duaassociates.com /vinuth@duaassociates.com

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, Khanija Bhavan, West Wing, 2nd Floor,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Tel: 080-22354737/22354738 E-mail: kmerc2014@gmail.com

No: KMERC/ADMN/TOM/110/2024-25/2070 Date: 20.01.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) through e-Procurement portal from eligible Service Providers for providing MANPOWER SERVICES to KMERC.
The details can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date for uploading the tender is **03.02.2025.** For any clarification, contact on telephone.
(KMERC: 080-22354737/22354738 and KPPP Mobile: 8046010000/8068948777)

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager (T)
KMERC

DIPR/CP/4449/MAA/24-25

Karnataka Government
Youth Empowerment & Sports, Belagavi

DYES/BGM/MESS/2024-25. Date:24/09/2024

: Short Term E-Tender Publication:

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Belagavi called E-Tender to supply Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner for sportsmen of Sports School/Hostel, Belagavi details are as follows.

1	Tender Publication Date	No. DYES/BGM/MESS/2024-25 Dtd: 20/01/2025
2	Last Date to get Online Tender Form	Dtd:20/01/2025 to 07/02/2025 upto 4.00 pm
3	Last Date to upload E-Tender (In double Envelope)	Dtd: 07/02/2025 at 4.00 pm
4	Date to Open Technical Envelope	Dtd: 10/02/2025 at 11.00 am
5	Date to Open Financial Envelope (If Possible)	Dtd: 15/02/2025 at 11.00 am
6	Estimated Cost Deposit for Tender	Rs.1,42,35,000/-
7	Deposit of EMD with E-Tender	Rs.2,13,525/-
8	Tender Validity	90 days
9	Address & Ph.No of the Officer	The Deputy Director, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports,Belagavi Ph No: 0831-2950306

Sd/-Deputy Director,
Youth Empowerment and Sports, Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1509/KSMCA/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No: EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/2702/TND/2024-25/2995
Date:20.01.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders from Eligible Contractor through "E-Procurement" on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.
2702 -M&R Works:- Total 3 Work,, Estimated Cost **Rs.67.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **22.01.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17.30 hrs.** on **29.01.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17.30 hrs.** on **28.01.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/629/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Can Fin Homes Ltd

Address:#1689,1st Floor,100 Feet Road (Double Road),Vidyanagar,Mandya-571401
CIN –L85110KA1987PLC008699
Email:mandya@canfinhomes.com
Telephone: PH: 08232-222454, 7625079175

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK) HOME LOANS • DEPOSITS
Mandya Branch

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)]

(For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 05.11.2024 calling upon the borrowers **Mr. Sampath Kumar R S/o Late Vimala, (Guarantors) Mr.Sunil M B** S/o Bore Gowda and **Mr.Ramegowda** S/o Late Chikkaide Gowda,all other legal heirs of Late Vimala, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.48,84,009/- (Rupees Forty Eighty Lakh Eighty Four Thousand and Nine Only)with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security InterestEnforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **18thday of January of the year 2025.**
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CFHL for an amount of **Rs. 48,84,009/-** (Rupees Forty Eighty Lakh Eighty Four Thousand and Nine Only) and interest thereon .

Description of immovable property

Property situated at Panchayath Khatha No.57, E Property, No.152900102100100082, Belekere Village, Malur Hobli, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagar District with site dimension of East to West :21.3360 meters and North to South:17.6784 meters Totally 377.19 Sq metersand Constructed area of 156.78 Sq meters of RCC roof Ground Floor and 76.672 Sq Meters of RCC roof first floor residential house building with electricity water and sanitary connection.
Boundaries of the property is: East by : Late Thammaiah's Property, West by : Property of Jayalakshmamma, North by : Property of Balaramegowda, South by : Property of Siddaiah.

Sd/-
Date: 21.01.2025
Place : Mandya
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., CHIKKABALLAPURA

[N.H - 7, Yaluvahalli , Nandi Cross, Doddamarali Post, Chikkaballapura – 562103. Karnataka] E-Mail- chimulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No. CHIMUL/PUR/E-PROCUREMENT/524/2024-25 Date: 20.01.2025

****E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the following.

Sl.No	Description
01.	Insurance Coverage for Plant and Machinery at Mega Dairy, Chikkaballapura

Access to E-tender Documents : 21.01.2025 to 28.01.2025 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 28.01.2025, 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 30.01.2025, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://Kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/-
Managing Director.
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division

LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage,
Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-25037214

21.01.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Name of work	**Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Painting in Offices, Laboratories, Workshops, etc., in LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru**
Tender Notice No.	**LPSC(B)/CMD/03/3004/C/MI/024/ 2024-25 Dated: 22.01.2025**
Estimated Amount	**₹12.95 Lakhs**
Period of completion	**12 Months**
Sale Period	**From 22.01.2025 to 31.01.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit [EMD]	**₹25,900/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-02/72/2024-25/1548 Date: 18.01.2025

PUBLICATION

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt H.Rathnamma, Sri Siddaramaiah.S and Sri.S.Muddubasavaiah Rep By their GPA Holder M/S LTG Infrastructure Limited, Rep. by its Authorised Signatory Sri.H.P.Lakshmana has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:7/5 extent of 00Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:7/6 extent of 00Acre-10Guntas, Sy.No:7/7 extent of 00Acre-19Guntas, Sy.No:8/1 extent of 01Acre-08Guntas and Sy.No:8/8 extent of 01Acre-08Guntas, totally measuring 03Acre-09Guntas of Kodiyalakarenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) If these lands are developed, therein well developed sites/ houses will be available to all.
2) If these lands are developed, job facilities will be available to all sectors of labours.
3) If these lands are developed the surrounding area will also get developed.
4) If these lands are developed, good road, civic amenity sites and parks etc, will be available for General Public.
5) If these lands are developed and layout is formed thereon, it will help the workers working near by Bidadi Industrial Area in obtaining residential sites/houses in the said lands.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/4475/SPAN/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

Abstract Bid Notification

(Through e-Procurement Portal) (Two Cover System)

Bids in two parts are invited through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

VARAHI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

1) No.: KPCL/2024-25/IND1439 Date : 16-01-2025. Name of the work : Supply of one no of Mini Lorry of 2.9 Tonne & above capacity of model 2025 onwards fo VHEP. last date for receipt of completed bids is **30.01.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. EMD :** Rs.38,310/-.

2) No.: KPCL/2024-25/SE0213 Date : 09-01-2025. Name of the work: Providing Five (5)nos. of Heavy Motor License (HPV/PSV) transport and non-transport with Badge holding Drivers for KPCL department vehicles at Varahi Project on Contract Basis for a period of Twelve months & extendable one more year based on satisfactory performance". Last date for receipt of completed bids is **25.01.2025 up to 17:30 Hrs. EMD :** Rs.32,060/-.

For further details contact Executive Engineer (MSP)H, VHEP, KPCL, Hosangadi 576282, Kundapur(T), Udupi(D),Karnataka, Phone/Mobile: +91-8259-288643/+91-9141621074.

KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT - STAGE I & II

1) No: KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT-2454, Date: 09.01.2025. Name of the work : Underwater inspection and videography of guide, grooves & struck stoplog elements at Supa Dam. **Tender Amount :** Rs.3.80 Lakhs.. **EMD :** Rs.9,500/-.

2) No: KPCL/2024-25/GH/WORK_INDENT-2049/Call-2. Supply, erection commission and testing of two numbers of control panels for penstock gate at Unit 1 at Kadra and Unit #3 at Kodasalli Dam. **Tender Amount:** Rs.14.56 **Lakhs. EMD :** Rs.35,400/-.

3) No: KPCL/2024- 25/PM/WORK INDENT2490 Dated: 09.01.2025. Name of the work : "Electrification to Auditorium in Ambedkar Bhavan of KPCL Colony at Ambikanagar." **EMD :** Rs 9,740/-.

Last date & time for receipt of tender: 22/01/2025, 16.30 hrs for Sl. No.1 & 2 and 23/01/2025, 17.30 hrs. for Sl. No. 3 . Further details can be had from Executive Engineer (Civil), Kadra Divsion, KPCL, Kadra-581396, Ph No: 08382-256334. Further details can be had from Office of the EE(Gates) Mobile: 9141611350 for Sl. No.1 & 2 and The Executive Engineer (O,PS&C) Nagihari, Mobile: 9449599118 for Sl. No.3. KPCL, Ambikanagar-581363, Uttara Kannada Dist Karnataka State.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAKSHMANAKUMAR S/o P.M.Chikkabyrappa aged about 50 years R/at Ward no 23, Ullor Pete, Sidlaghatta Town, Chikkaballapura District-562105-Hearby declare that Lakshmanakumar and Lakshman Kumar belongs to me only, henceforth is shall be known and called Lakshmanakumar for all legal purposes vide affidavit dated: 20-01-2025 Before Notary Sri Ravikumar Sidlaghatta

I, M.S.Manjunatha S/o Munisonnappa.M aged about 48 years R/at Mallur Village and Post, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura District-562102, In my Passport my wife's name is wrongly mentioned as Neela.M instead of Neela.M.Y my wife's correct name is Neela.M.Y only, vide affidavit dated: 17-01-2025 Before Notary A.Narayanaswamy, Devanahalli

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJASHEKHAR Rugi, S/O: Rawatappa Rugi, R/O: No– 49, 1st Main, Akshayanagar Garden, Akshayanagar West, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru–560068. Have Changed My Name To Rajashekhar Rawatappa Rugi. vide affidavit on 21/01/25.

I, S. Ayyappa Shreyas , S/o. Shri. Sreekumaran M, R/@ No. 611, 1st Main Road, 1st Cross, Raghavendra Block, Srinagar, Banashankari, Bengaluru- 560050, Karnataka India, have changed my name from S. Ayyappa Shreyas to Shreyas Acharya S. (i.e. Shreyas Acharya Sreekumaran), vide affidavit dated: 21/01/2025, sworn before Notary Public, K. H. Jagadish, Bangalore. I shall be known as Shreyas Acharaya S., for all future purposes.

BBMP to establish animal rescue centres

In the absence of such facilities, the civic body has been assigning injured or abandoned dogs, including strays, to not-for-profit organisations

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The BBMP will also treat abandoned pets, and will coordinate with NGOs for adoption. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will soon be opening small animal rescue centres in three zones in the city to rescue and treat canines and cats. If all goes as planned, the BBMP will become the first civic body in Karnataka to establish an infirmary for animals. The initiative is part of the civic body's animal welfare programme.

In the absence of such centres, the BBMP has been assigning injured or abandoned dogs, including strays, to not-for-profit organisations involved in rescue. In order to carry out this exercise independently, the BBMP will be kick-starting these centres. The centres will be coming in Dasarahalli, East, and South zones.

According to BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Suralkar Vikas Kishor, the BBMP has already issued the work order in Dasarahalli zone. Tenders have been invited for the centres in East and South zones.

In three months, all the centres will be operational. The centres are coming up in existing Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres.

Dedicated space

Mr. Kishor further said dedicated space will be opened at the ABC centres to accommodate at least 20 canines and cats. At every centre, staff will be deployed to treat injured animals.

"As we currently do not have this facility, as soon as we receive a call on the helpline (1533) to rescue dogs, the team picks up the animal and hands it over to private rescue centres.

After treatment, the NGO will intimate the same, and the stray will be dropped back to its place," he said.

The BBMP will also treat abandoned pets, and will coordinate with the NGOs for adoption. He clarified that these are rescue centres for small animals, and not for cattle and wild animals.

First in Karnataka

Arun Prasad, an animal activist who has been working with the BBMP for implementation of this programme, said this has been pending for long. Mr. Prasad said Section 59 (11) of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act 1976 mandates civic bodies to set up rescue centres. The centres should have in-patient facilities. "It took 48 years for the BBMP to think of establishing a centre after the enactment of the law," he said.

Mr. Prasad said the BBMP should expand the centres to five other zones, and this rule should be implemented in other parts of Karnataka.

Two held for robbing, assaulting woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old woman from Tamil Nadu was allegedly sexually assaulted and later robbed of her valuables by two labourers on the pretext of helping her in SJ Park police station limits recently.

The accused have been identified as Saravan, 35 and Ganesh, 23. The suspects then had a fight with the woman, snatched her mobile phone and around ₹650 in cash, and fled the spot, the police said.

The accused according to the police were homeless and worked as porters in the city market. They were produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody.

The probe revealed that the victim arrived in the city a week ago after having a fight with her family. She was waiting for a bus to go to her brother's house in Yelahanka when the duo approached her.

The accused took her to an isolated place and allegedly raped her.

The victim resisted following which the accused stole her valuables and escaped.

She managed to reach the SJ park police and filed a complaint.

Phase 2 of suburban railway project to cover 146 km

A file photo of suburban railway project works under way at Lingarajapuram.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The second phase of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) is expected to be limited to 146 km, as plans for a circular rail network for the city are also in progress.

Officials from the Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises Karnataka (K-RIDE), the nodal agency for the project, have outlined proposed extensions covering 146 km.

These include stretches from Devanahalli to Chickballapur (18 km); Chikkabanavar to Kunigal (50 km); Chikkabanavar to Dobbspet (36 km); Kengeri to Hejjala (11 km); Heelalige to Anekal Road (11 km), and Rajanukunte to Oderahalli (20 km).

The decision to limit the suburban rail expansion was made during a meeting in late 2024 involving Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, Infrastructure Minister M.B. Patil, and senior officials from Railways and K-RIDE. Subsequently, K-RIDE sought approval from the Ministry of Railways to conduct a feasibility study for integrating the suburban rail expansion with the proposed circular rail network.

Initially, K-RIDE had proposed a more extensive 452-km suburban rail network to connect Bengaluru with nearby towns, including Devanahalli, Chickballapur, Tumakuru, Kolar, Mysuru, and Hosur. However, this ambitious plan was rejected in 2024 by South Western Railway (SWR).

An official explained the rationale behind the proposal, stating that the circular rail network planned for Bengaluru division, combined with ongoing quadrupling and doubling projects by Railways, eliminates the need for suburban rail connectivity in many areas initially proposed under the 452 km plan. The revised plan focuses on covering gaps where there is currently no rail connectivity.

K.N. Krishna Prasad, a railway activist, called it a good step forward for Bengaluru's transport network.

"Let them finish phase one and then work on the second phase. However, this is a good initiative to integrate the suburban rail with the circular railway, which will benefit residents of the city's satellite towns. It will also contribute to alleviating the growing congestion in Bengaluru," he added.

Low wages sting law graduates from non-premier colleges

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

People often joke about how pursuing a legal case takes a lifetime. When it comes to a career after legal studies, students feel the same way now. Law students in Bengaluru, especially from non-premier law schools, are struggling with establishing secure careers, especially if they choose to go the litigation way.

Navyatha V. graduated from a law college in South Bengaluru around two years ago. Passionate about litigation, she started practising as a junior advocate under a Supreme Court advocate.

"I work at least 12 to 14 hours a day. I have to travel from one court to the other and do a ton of work. But I get paid ₹12,000 a month

Unlike other courses, most law colleges do not really have structured placements. GETTY IMAGES

for all this work which I do not think would be acceptable in any other profession. But without this experience, it would be difficult to land jobs in corporate sector as well, especially if you are not from a premier law school," she said.

Many other fresh graduates have been struggling the same way with their careers. Unlike other courses, most law colleges do not really have structured placements. While they find it difficult to land corporate jobs, working under senior advocates do not benefit them monetarily. Many of them report working for anything between ₹10,000 and ₹20,000 a month with 12 to 16-hour workdays.

Law professors say that placements of law students depend on the kind of colleges as there are private universities, affiliated colleges, and deemed-to-be universities.

"With private universities it is quite easy as they easily get good marks, and they get absorbed quickly by companies. Deemed institutions are also in better positions. But among students of private colleges which are affiliated to Karnataka State Law University (KSLU) the pass percentage is relatively less," said Roopa. S., Assistant professor, BMS College of Law.

She also said that students affiliated with KSLU also do not get to do full-time internships at corporate companies unlike their counterparts from private universities.

"Corporate companies demand that students come pre-equipped with some skills which they pick up from full-time internships. But according to the rules of the Bar Council of India (BCI), affiliated students should do internships only during vacations which sometimes gives them a duration of just two weeks," Ms. Roopa said.

However, professors from most colleges say that if students are committed to the profession, then they should endure the hardship for the first five years. "If they work hard for five years, then they can start working on bigger cases and earn more. I have seen my students make anywhere from ₹30,000 a month to ₹10 lakh a month," Mr. Gowda remarked.

Despite these issues, admissions have remained stable. "For the 60 seats we open every new batch, we get 600 to 800 applications. We have a strict cut-off of 96%," Mr. Gowda said.

Ms. Roopa also said that all three-year and five-year courses at her college get good admissions every year.

THE HINDU

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Fortune-teller held for robbing woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bommanahalli police have arrested a 45-year-old fortune-teller for allegedly stealing 115 grams of gold valuables from a homemaker on the pretext of performing puja for her well-being in March last year.

The accused, B.M. Venkataramana, was caught moving suspiciously in the same area recently, when the beat police on a suspicion detained him for questioning.

A detailed questioning led him to allegedly confess following which the police recovered gold valuables worth ₹8 lakh which he had pawned in a gold shop in Chintamani. With his arrest, the police also solved a house-break theft reported last year and recovered 20 grams of gold valuables from him. Inspector Pritham A.D. said that the accused approached the homemaker claiming that someone had performed black magic on her and assured of warding off evil through a special puja.

The accused asked her to put all her gold valuables in an earthen pot and later diverted her attention and handed over a similar pot covered with vermilion, turmeric, and rice grains. The accused told her to keep the pot near the safe for a few hours before the god's portrait and escaped.

The victim followed the instructions and opened the pot to see the valuables missing. She filed a complaint with the police, who alerted the beat police to keep a lookout for the suspect before he was picked up near the Bommanahalli bus stand.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:16
RISE	00:20 SET 12:10
THURSDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:16
RISE	01:09 SET 12:50
FRIDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE	06:46 SET 18:17
RISE	02:00 SET 13:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	21
Mysuru	30	16
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
25°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, U.P.

6th Floor, Jawahar Bhawan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

No.ME-3/2025/187 Lucknow : Dated 21 January, 2025

The Revised Time Schedule of Third Round of Online Counseling for UP NEET PG-2024

The Revised time Schedule of online counseling for the Third Round for admission to postgraduate courses (MD/MS/Diploma and DNB) in Government/autonomous/private Medical Colleges/Institutes/ Universities/Hospitals under Medical Health is as follows :-

S. No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online deposition of Registration Fee and Security Money	24th January 2025 (From 5:00 PM) to 27th January 2025 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 Days
2.	Date of Online Choice Filling	27th January 2025 (From 2:00 PM) to 31st January 2025 (Till 11:00 AM)	04 Days
3.	Date of Declaration of result of seat allotment	03rd Febuary 2025	01 Days
4.	Date for downloading allotment letters and admission process	04th Febuary 2025 to 08th Febuary 2025	05 Days

- Only registered candidates under UP NEET PG-2024 can participate in the counseling process.
- Those candidates who are registered and have not been able to deposit the registration fee and security amount due to some reason, can participate in the counselling process by depositing the registration fee and security amount.
- Only those registered candidates who have deposited the registration fee and security amount will be eligible for choice filling.
- Candidates should assess their eligibility themselves as per the provisions contained in the Government Order No. I/687326/2024 dated 09 July 2024 regarding UP NEET PG 2024 policy and the brochure of UP NEET PG-2024.
- All information related to UP NEET PG-2024 counseling will be uploaded on website ***https://upneet.gov.in*** and ***www.dgme.up.gov.in***. candidates are advised to visit the website on regular basis.

DGME

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
SyndicateBank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 11.02.2025

Last date of EMD : 10.02.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 11.02.2025 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/), e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **10.02.2025 at 5.00 pm** **(₹. in Lakhs)**

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets:	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**(1) M/s. Ambika Electronics,** Ground Floor, No. 952, A Sunder Mahal, 14th Cross, Hoskerahalli, Girinagar, Bangalore-560085 **(2) Mr. Ramesh Aithal,** S/o Sri. K.Venkattraman Aithal, 85, Yukthi, Avalahalli, 3rd Stage, Girinagar, Bangalore-560055, **(3) Mr. K.Shantharam Holla,** S/o Achula Holla, B 202, Ashwini Apartment, 14 Ring Road, Banashankari, 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070, **(4) Mr. K.V.R. Somayaji,** 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078 **(5) Smt. K.Veena** W/o Mr.K.V.R.Somayaji, 97, 3rd Main, 4th Phase, J.P.Nagar, Sarakki Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560078 **(6) Mr. Sri. Sadananda Maiya** S/o Late PYN Maiya, 342/20, Shanthala, 1st B Main Road, Jayanagar West, Bangalore-82.	Residential Property Site No 14 Old Sy No 59, PID no 55-142-14/49,Flats no B-202, `B`Block,Second Floor, Ashwini Apartments, No 14, 100 Feet Ring Road Near Devegowda Petrol Bunk 2nd Stage ,BBMP Ward no 182,Bengalore 560070 standing in the name of K shantharama Holla, Area 1809.25 Sq ft 3 BHK **Coordinates of the property , Latitude- 12.9196309N Longitude- 77.5619212E**	**Rs. 457858781.49/- as on 20.01.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 144.00 b) ₹. 14.40 c) ₹.1.00**	**03.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		Residential property Site No.14 Old Sy. No.59, PID No.55-142-14/2, Flats no A 201, `A` Block, Second Floor, Ashwini Apartments, 100 Feet Ring Road Near Devegowda Petrol Bunk 2nd Stage ,BBMP Ward no 182,Bengalore 70 standing in the name of K V R Somayaji and Smt K Veena Area 1337.30Sq ft. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.9196309N Longitude- 77.5619212E**		**a) ₹. 108.00 b) ₹. 10.80 c) ₹.1.00**	
		Residential Site No 5, carved out of sy no 29/13 of Mayagananahalli Village, Kasaba hobli, Ramanagaram Taluk, V P Katha No 571-5-29/13, Measuring 8000 sft standing in the name of Sri Ramesh Aithal and K Shantahrama Holla. Area Sq Ft 8000. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.8062193N Longitude- 77.3170495E**		**a) ₹. 163.00 b) ₹. 16.30 c) ₹.1.00**	
2	**1. M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd) Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan,** Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570 021, **2. Mr. (Prof) Riaz Ahmed, President &Trustee, 3. Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Secretary & Trustee, 4. Mr. K C Shoukath Pasha, Joint Secretary & Trustee, 5. Dr. Abdur Rahman, Trustee, 6. Dr. M Sayeeb Ahmed, Trustee, 7. Mr. S P Ahmed Jan, Trustee. 8. Mr. (Prof.) Syed Akheel Ahmed, Trustee, 9. Mr. Ahmed Agha, Trustee, 10. Mr. Arif Mehkri, Trustee, 11. Dr. Muneer Ahmed, Trustee, 12. Mr. A S Sardar, Trustee, 13. Mr. Akbar Sayeed, Trustee (now reportedly died), Address of the above 2 to 13** M/s Rafah-Ul-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah; Tilaknagar, Mysore 570021.	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019. Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet** and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property is 32,084 Sq ft. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3243566, Longitude- 76.6749867**	**Rs. 673973757.29 as on 20.01.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 1135.21 b) ₹. 113.52 c) ₹.1.00**	**03.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		All that piece and parcel of 4 Acres of land in Sy. No. 93/2-P-1, Belavatha Village @ Manti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District bounded by East By : Land of Sanjeev Nayak West By : Land, Mohammed Saheb North By : Purniahana Nala South By : Land of Chikkanna. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.3537780 Longitude- 76.6470830** ****NOTE: Total extent of land mortgaged to Bank is 80,000 Sq Ft. Out of which 47,916 Sq Ft is under litigation in Writ Petition No. 3732/2021, which will be put for auction after disposal of High Court case.**		**a) ₹. 539.44 b) ₹. 53.94 c) ₹.1.00**	
3	**(1) M/s Covalent,** No.46/2, (Ravi Edible Oil Refinery Compund), Bisuvanahalli, Doddaballabpur Road, Bengaluru Rural District-561203. **(2) Sri P Roshan** S/o Sri Paramashivaiah, No.48, 2nd Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560003.	Residential site carved out of lands in Sy No. 168 of Kodihalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk converted for residential purpose vide b.DIS.ALN.SR/6362 dated 21.03.1974 now within the limits of BBMP and bearing Municiple No. 168, PID No. 74-1-168 situated at old airport road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru under corporation ward No.74- Jeevana Bhimanagar and the site measuring 1935 sq ft. Boundaries of the site: East by: property belonging to Bandiyappa, West by: Diamond district apartment, North by: old Airport road , South by: Remaining portion of Vinay Kumar. **Owner of the property: Mr. P Roshan. Co-ordinates of the site: Latitude: 12.960222 Longitude: 77.644278.**	**Rs. 119655581.40/- as on 20.01.2025 with further interest and cost thereon.** **Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 445.05 b) ₹. 44.50 c) ₹.1.00**	**03.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 21.01.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

M BG-BGE

In breakthrough, scientists find pressure sensor in fat tissue

Gautam Menon, a professor at Ashoka University who studies how cells sense and respond to mechanical forces, called it 'a major discovery.' It has also kicked up a new mystery. As its co-discoverer and 2021 Nobel laureate Ardem Patapoutian remarked, what could the sensor be sensing in fat?

Sayantan Datta

Ardem Patapoutian flexes a tattoo of the PIEZO mechanosensitive channel. ARDEM PATAPOUTIAN/BLUESKY

In a video uploaded to the internet in November, Ardem Patapoutian, who shared the medicine Nobel Prize in 2021, unbuttoned his cuff and pulled up his sleeve to reveal a tattoo near his elbow. As he flexed his arm, the tattoo came to life. The tattoo was of the PIEZO mechanosensitive channel – a class of proteins that helps us sense pressure – and the flexing demonstrated how the channel opened and closed in response to pressure.

Patapoutian, a molecular biologist and neuroscientist at the Scripps Research Institute, California, and Betrand Coste, then a postdoctoral researcher in Patapoutian's lab, discovered the PIEZO ion channels in 2010.

Ion channels are proteins that have a pore in their structure. In response to certain stimuli, the protein's structure changes and the pore widens. When this happens, ions can flow through, changing the voltage across a cell's membrane. If the cell is a neuron, it can use the resulting electric signal to communicate with other neurons. This is how the human nervous system works.

The stimuli that open an ion channel are called its gates. When researchers say voltage-gated ion channels, they mean a particular channel opens when the voltage across a cell membrane changes. Since the ion channels discovered by Patapoutian and Coste were gated by pressure, they called them mechanosensitive ion channels.

They discovered two such channels and named them PIEZO1 and PIEZO2, both from the Greek word 'piezi' meaning 'pressure.'

Since their 2010 discovery, PIEZO channels have been implicated in our ability to sense touch and pain, to understand how our bodies are positioned in space (proprioception), to perceive our body's internal state (interoception), and to respire, urinate, form blood vessels, regulate bone density, and heal skin wounds.

Two new studies – which independent experts called "pivotal" and a "breakthrough" to this reporter – have now expanded the ambit of PIEZO channels' functions.

One, a preprint from the labs of Patapoutian and his colleague at Scripps Research, Li Ye, demonstrates the role PIEZO2 plays in sensing mechanical changes in fat tissue. The second study, published in the journal *Science* and led by Danijela Matic Vignjevic from the Curie Institute in Paris and Tae-Hee Kim from the University of Toronto, shows the importance of the two PIEZO channels in regulating the fate of stem cells in mouse intestines.

The papers lend credence to the idea that biochemical cues don't have a monopoly on regulating biological processes: many of them involve mechanical stimuli as well. The findings open "intriguing avenues for future research," says Namrata Gundiah, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, who studies how mechanical stimuli affect the movement of cells, said.

'What is it sensing in fat?'

The fat, or adipose, tissues in our bodies need to communicate with the brain to adjust the body's metabolism. Typically, scientists study how the brain communicates with adipose tissue through the sympathetic nervous system and how the adipose tissue replies through circulating chemical signals.

But the new Patapoutian et al. study, which is awaiting peer review, focused on a different link between the brain and adipose tissue: sensory afferents.

Neurons are a type of cell that make up our nervous system. Each neuron has two main parts: a cell body and a tail-like extension called the axon. The spinal cord has some cell clusters called the dorsal root ganglia (DRG). The axons of the neurons in these clusters are called sensory afferents. They enter tissues and sense various stimuli.

The researchers injected adipose tissues in mice with cholera toxin-B (CTB) that had been bound to molecules that could glow if hit with light. CTB is a part of the cholera toxin, a set of proteins produced by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. These proteins bind to certain compounds on the membranes of neurons. By injecting CTB in mice adipose tissues, the team could identify these tissues using the glow molecules and isolate them.

When the team looked for the most abundant ion channels in these neurons, they found an unexpected candidate: PIEZO2.

PIEZO2 is known to be a specialised mechanosensitive ion channel: it is gated only by pressure, not other factors. It is thus safe to say these sensory afferents are sensing mechanical changes in adipose tissues.

Gautam Menon, a professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University who studies how cells sense and respond to mechanical forces, called this "a major discovery."

One question, however, remains unanswered: what is the source of these mechanical changes? As Patapoutian remarked on the social media platform Bluesky, "What is it sensing in fat?"

Scientists don't have an answer yet – but the rest of the study shows a way. When the team used genetic techniques to reduce the levels of PIEZO2 proteins in sensory afferents, they found that parts of the adipose tissue innervated by these afferents had larger cells. These parts also express more genes involved in metabolic processes that help the body produce heat and convert carbohydrates, proteins, and alcohol into fat. These changes have been previously reported to result from the removal of DRG – where the sensory afferents are rooted – in mice.

The researchers also showed that if the levels of PIEZO2 are artificially increased in mice whose DRGs have been removed, the changes of such removal can be reversed.

Taken together, the experiments suggest that different metabolic processes in adipose tissue cause mechanical changes in the tissue. The sensory afferents sense these mechanical changes through PIEZO channels and communicate them to the brain.

A gut feeling

In 1745, German physician Johann Nathanel Lieberkühn described in detail glands found between finger-like projections called villi in the small intestine. These glands house intestinal stem cells (ISCs) that have the ability to develop into other cell types required by the intestinal tract. The development process is tightly controlled and important to regenerate and maintain the gut lining.

The cells of these glands are arranged in a particular pattern on a network of proteins and other molecules called the extracellular matrix. The matrix helps keep the gland tissue stiff, which is another way to say the glands are potentially capable of sensing and responding to mechanical stimuli. The ISCs also exert forces on other cells in the gland as they change into other cell types.

To understand how these mechanical forces affect the ISCs, researchers in the labs of Vignjevic and Tae-Hee Kim generated 3D miniature guts, called organoids, on Petri dishes. These mini-guts replicate the structure and function of the intestines in animals, albeit in simpler fashion. The researchers then used chemicals to inhibit PIEZO channels in the mini-guts, reducing the size of the organoids, the number of glands in each organoid, and the number of ISCs.

When they removed the PIEZO channels in the guts of living mice, the animals suffered from diarrhoea, showed blood in their stools, had lower body weight, and "died quickly." Kim said. The team concluded that "PIEZO channels in intestinal epithelia are essential" to maintain "adequate intestinal architecture and homeostasis."

The ISCs in mice whose guts lacked PIEZO channels also lost their ability to reproduce more ISCs and transform into other cell types. Instead, they became cells that divided rapidly and depleted away.

In subsequent experiments, the researchers modelled the mechanical forces on ISCs. In one approach, they modelled how the stiffness of the extracellular matrix changed; in the other, they studied the tension (the force exerted on an object when it is pulled) in the tissue. In the first approach, the scientists grew mini-guts – this time 2D – on artificial substrates whose stiffness they could control. Then they quantified the activation of PIEZO channels by measuring the amount of calcium in the cells of the organoids. When PIEZO channels open, they allow calcium ions to enter cells.

In their paper, the team reported the PIEZO channels were "more prone to activation" on stiffer substrates. Using atomic force microscopy, they found the area of the gland where the ISCs lived was stiffer than elsewhere. The researchers concluded the PIEZO channels were important for ISCs to sense and respond to stiffness.

In the second approach, the researchers engineered a "cell-stretching device" to stretch the mini-guts. At the same time they inhibited PIEZO activity using chemicals, they found that the number of ISCs dropped.

Taken together, the researchers concluded that PIEZO channels help ISCs sense mechanical changes in their surroundings, which in turn regulates their behaviour.

When PIEZO channels were removed from the guts of mice, the animals suffered diarrhoea, showed blood in their stools, lost body weight, and 'died quickly.' The team concluded that PIEZO channels are essential" to maintain 'adequate intestinal architecture and homeostasis'

Kim said, "Stem cell activity is dysregulated in many gut diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and cancer. Thus, a better understanding of the mechanistic roles of PIEZO channels would help identify novel therapies against them."

The physics of biology

For Gautam Menon, the *Science* study "adds to the view that mechanical signals, as opposed to purely biochemical ones, play an important role in deciding stem cell fates."

Two decades ago, he said, the prevalent view was that the type of cells that stem cells turn into is determined only by biochemical signals in the form of small molecules. Since then, scientists have found more and more evidence that "the mechanical environment of cells and the forces that act on them" play an important role in deciding their fate, he added.

As the view has changed, researchers have confronted newer – and according to Menon, "harder" – questions. These include "measuring forces in a cellular context that is realistic and figuring out how these forces produce signals that cells can interpret."

The two new studies imply the PIEZO mechanosensitive ion channels might be the answer to the latter: these channels sense mechanical forces and open in response, allowing calcium ions to flow into cells. These ions can then trigger a series of changes within the cells that determine their fate.

Kim hopes the team's study motivates other researchers to investigate the roles of PIEZO channels in stem cells of other tissues, especially when there is tissue disease. This "would be critical for the development of more effective and targeted therapies," he said.

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

A Bank of America building in fllames along Lake Avenue, Los Angeles, on January 8. AFP

Builders study LA homes that survived the wildfires

Associated Press

Emails and videos of burned buildings in Los Angeles next to those left standing have been flying back and forth among architects, builders, and fire safety specialists around the world.

Many experts say luck plays a part. After all, winds can shift 180° in a second, pushing fire away from one house and towards a neighbour's. But they also say there are many ways homes can be made less vulnerable.

Greg Faulkner of Faulkner Architects in California said there is a finite number of ways a fire can burn a house. "If you eliminate half of those, or three-quarters of them, that's not luck, that's increasing your odds."

People in fire country generally know that trees, landscaping, and wood fences near homes can be a fire risk. Architects and contractors are going beyond that, using newer materials and techniques in roofing, walls, and windows to keep buildings standing. The measures can add as much as 10% to the cost of homes.

Many of these experts no longer use wood siding. Where it is used, or still allowed, it needs to have a fire-resistant barrier underneath, often made of gypsum.

Stucco, a cement material, is fire-resistant. Arnold Tarling, who inspected buildings for four decades in Britain, said houses with stucco walls appeared to survive the fires better. Yet if more of them had had a layer of gypsum underneath, it would have given more protection from the heat, he said.

Double-pane windows also significantly

Architects and contractors are using newer materials and techniques in roofing, walls, and windows to keep buildings standing. The measures can add as much as 10% to the cost of homes

slow heat coming from the burning building next door. Tarling noted that one Malibu beachfront home, surrounded by gutted buildings, was intact because no windows faced a neighbor, so radiated heat couldn't penetrate it as easily.

Then there's the roof, when fire embers can land. Simpler roof lines can allow red-hot embers to slide off. Spanish Mission, for example, is an iconic LA style but the knee walls it uses create corners where embers can gather.

Many roofs in the US are covered in asphalt. Areas that are designated wildfire-prone in California – ever-growing in size – are required to use roofing that delays the transfer of heat to the building's inside.

Still, asphalt is a petroleum product. Some professionals prefer metal, which doesn't burn, although it conducts heat.

Maybe as important as which material is used on a roof is whether the roof offers fire a way to get in.

Contractors have been more careful over the years to make sure moisture doesn't build up in attics by making sure air circulates, using the vents visible on many roofs. But in a powerful fire, the flames can blow in through these vents.

Cesar Martin Gomez, an architect at the University of Navarra, Spain, noted that in some parts of Australia, new homes are required to have water tanks. "If each home has the ability to protect itself, fire won't be able to spread as much," he said.

For feedback and suggestions
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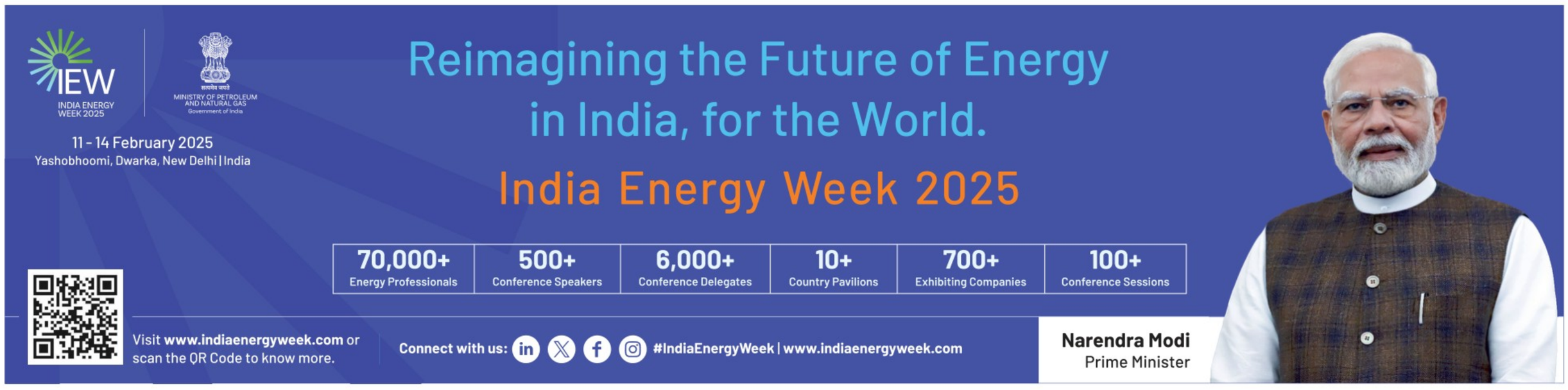

Munirathna and six others booked for forcibly getting houses razed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MLA for R.R. Nagar Munirathna is in trouble once again after the RMC Yard police registered an FIR against him and six of his associates for alleged land grabbing and atrocity, after he allegedly forcibly demolished houses in a slum area in Peenya and assaulted the dwellers on Monday.

Based on a complaint filed by one of the victims, the police booked Munirathna as the prime accused as well as six of his associates, charging them with unlawful assembly, assault or criminal force against women, mischief and criminal intimidation, along with various sections under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Munirathna

The victim, a resident of Akkamahadevi slum situated near Peenya Government Degree College, was living with around 60 families in makeshift houses on government land.

Munirathna and his associates allegedly came and demolished the houses and assaulted them when they went to plead with him to stop the demolition.

The accused allegedly manhandled the women and kicked them, the victim said in her complaint. The dwellers lost all their belongings along with the little valuables and cash they had, she alleged.

"The land belongs to the government and the MLA misused his power to carry out the demolition drive without proper orders," sources said.

Multiple cases

Munirathna was earlier arrested in three cases, including for allegedly raping a social worker in September last year. He was also booked for honey-trapping politicians and using HIV-infected women to trap his rivals.

He was accused of using government officials for his alleged nefarious activities and the SIT which is probing these cases also arrested a police inspector for abetting the crime.

City police suspend Darshan's gun licence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda on Tuesday said that the gun licence of Kannada actor Darshan has been suspended temporarily.

The licensing authority headed by the City Police Commissioner had issued a notice to Darshan seeking an explanation, and the decision (to suspend the licence) was taken after he responded to the notice. After receiving the response, it was decided to suspend the licence. The actor was told to deposit the firearm at the jurisdictional R.R. Nagar police station, the Commissioner said.

In December, the R.R. Nagar police sent a request to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration) seeking cancellation of Darshan's firearm licence pointing out that he was an accused in a murder case and presently

Darshan

out on bail, and there was a chance of him using the firearm to threaten witnesses.

A notice was served to Darshan seeking an explanation to which he replied that he needed the firearm for his safety, as he was a celebrity and visited crowded places.

However, the explanation was not considered, and the request was turned down with directions to deposit the weapon at the police station.

The city police also challenged Darshan's medical bail citing technical reasons, which is pending in the Supreme Court.

'Mahashivayogi was a true symbol of humanity'

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at an event to felicitate Go. Ru. Channabasappa on Tuesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Shivakumar Mahashivayogi's life is a profound example of service, dedication, and philanthropy," said Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor, while inaugurating the sixth Punya Samsmaranotsava of Shivakumar Mahashivayogi at Shri Siddaganga Mutt, Tumakuru, on Tuesday.

"He was a true symbol of humanity. Recognised globally, his work earned him many accolades, including the Padma Bhushan in 2015," he added.

Man held for stealing from ex-employer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bellandur police have arrested a 31-year-old cab driver for allegedly stealing valuables worth ₹45 lakh from the house of his former employer using duplicate keys.

The accused, Siddu Kuppanna, worked as a driver at the house of a private firm owner for a year. He quit the job in February last year after the owner reprimanded him over a trivial row, said the police.

Humiliated by this, Siddu quit the job and the owner did not pay him a few days' salary. To teach him a lesson, Siddu got the duplicate key of the front door before quitting the job, said the police.

When the family went to Bidadi for two days and returned on December 23, they found valuables worth ₹45 lakh missing.

The family filed a complaint suspecting the role of their domestic help. However, the police ruled out the involvement of domestic help after finding nothing suspicious on questioning.

ओएनजीसी ONGC
OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS SECTION, SURFACE TEAM, MUMBAI HIGH ASSET, ONGC, MUMBAI

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Procurement & Contracts Section, Surface Team, Mumbai High Asset, ONGC, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible and interested firms/vendors for Hiring of services for the Operation & Maintenance contract of WIN platform, MH Asset.

Last date for submission of response: **on or before 02/02/2025 by 5:00 P.M.**

Details including EOI document can be downloaded from the websites https://tenders.ongc.co.in or GePNIC-CPPP portal **(https://etenders.gov.in)**

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's national sex ratio at birth in 2023-24

930 The government will organise celebrations to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative. Beginning on Wednesday, the celebrations will continue till March 8, which is observed as International Women's Day. PTI

India's 2030 target for renewable energy production

500 in GW. The government is committed to increasing the production of renewable energy in the country by 2030 and meet 50% of the energy requirement from renewable sources, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday. PTI

European Union's aid package for Lebanon's armed forces

62 in $ million. The European Union announced a support package for Lebanon's armed forces, as the crisis-hit country seeks to implement a fragile truce between Israel and Hezbollah. Under the ceasefire deal, Beirut said Israel must withdraw from the south of the country by January 26. AFP

Number of fatalities in the ski resort fire in Bolu, Turkey

66 The fire broke out at around 3:30 a.m. in the restaurant of the Grand Kartal hotel in the resort of Kartalkaya in Bolu province. Two of the victims died after jumping from the building. There were 234 guests staying at the hotel. Witnesses said the hotel's fire detection system failed to operate. AP

Americans freed in Afghanistan in a prisoner exchange

2 A prisoner swap between the U.S. and the Taliban freed Americans in exchange for a Taliban figure imprisoned for life in California on drug trafficking and terrorism charges. The deal came as Joe Biden handed over power to returning President Donald Trump. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What do draft data protection rules state?

Will major tech companies such as Meta, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon be affected by the new rules on data localisation? How does Rule 22 augment Section 36 of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023? Will the new rules compromise end-to-end encryption of messages?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on January 3, 2025, released the draft rules for implementing the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 – 16 months after the law was notified in August 2023. The Union government is currently soliciting feedback on the draft rules through a fiduciary framework that effectively precludes both public disclosure and the submission of counter-comments. "The draft rules, coupled with the existing legislation, are inadequate for establishing a comprehensive data privacy framework... Moreover, the government should consider submitting the rules to a parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny," Amar Patnaik, advocate and former MP, told *The Hindu*.

GETTY IMAGES

What is the data localisation mandate?

The draft rules introduce a data localisation mandate that extends beyond the original scope of the legislation. Data localisation refers to measures that restrict the flow of data within a jurisdiction's borders. While the DPDP Act permits the government to limit personal data transfers, it confines such restrictions to specific notified countries.

In contrast, the rules propose the creation of a government-appointed committee to define which classes of data cannot be exported from India. This mandate will apply to significant data fiduciaries (SDFs), as designated by the government based on the volume and sensitivity of the personal data they process. Major tech companies, such as Meta, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon, are expected to fall within this classification. The localisation provision likely stems from the challenges law enforcement agencies face in accessing cross-border data during investigations. In 2018, the Reserve Bank of India implemented a similar mandate, requiring payment data operators to localise their data within the country. Currently, financial, payment, and insurance data must be stored domestically, with copies of payment data allowed overseas solely to facilitate international transactions.

However, the government has clarified that the proposed committee is envisioned as a central body that will collaborate with other ministries and sectoral regulators to ensure the effective implementation of local data storage without disrupting industry operations. This approach could also help prevent ad hoc data localisation mandates from government departments working in silos. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw earlier told media portals that the government plans to provide the industry with a two-year timeline to establish the necessary systems for compliance.

According to Aparajita Bharti, a founding partner at TQH Consulting, which advises tech companies on compliance with Indian laws, data localisation mandates could present substantial operational challenges for both large tech companies and start-ups. "It is extremely difficult for companies to segment different sets of data and determine the appropriate data centre for each tool. This will restrict business operations and result in higher operational costs," she said.

What about executive overreach?

Section 36 of the DPDP Act, read in conjunction with Rule 22, empowers the Union government, through the designated authorised person, to demand "any" information from a data fiduciary or intermediary (entities processing personal data) in the interest of India's sovereignty, integrity, or national security. Experts have cautioned that such sweeping discretionary powers are susceptible to misuse, potentially enabling surveillance or the suppression of dissent.

Additionally, these provisions could compel social media intermediaries to compromise end-to-end encryption of messages – a concern raised by Meta-owned WhatsApp last year in its challenge to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Rule 22 prohibits companies from disclosing information about such government demands if doing so could "prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or the security of the State."

Apar Gupta, advocate and co-founder of Internet Freedom Foundation, told *The Hindu* that this provision stands in stark contrast to the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Privacy, headed by Justice (retd.) A.P. Shah, in 2012.

"The committee categorically recommended that individuals subject to interception should be notified. There is ample evidence of interception orders being misused by police departments under political influence. This provision effectively creates a giant backdoor for the government to requisition information without any checks and balances," he said.

Ms. Bharti agreed, highlighting the absence of adequate restraints on the government. "The government should consider adopting safeguards akin to those under the Information Technology Act, 2000, to ensure that citizens are not left unaware of the nature and extent of data requisitioned by the government from data fiduciaries. Such expansive governmental discretion could also hinder commercial interests," she said.

THE GIST

- Data localisation refers to measures that restrict the flow of data within a jurisdiction's borders. While the DPDP Act permits the government to limit personal data transfers, it confines such restrictions to specific notified countries.
- Section 36 of the DPDP Act, read in conjunction with Rule 22, empowers the Union government, through the designated authorised person, to demand "any" information from a data fiduciary or intermediary.
- The Union government is currently soliciting feedback on the draft rules through a fiduciary framework that effectively precludes both public disclosure and the submission of counter-comments.

What is the status of the Smart Cities Mission?

Why did the implementation of smart cities bypass local government and depend on Special Purpose Vehicles? What has happened to the mission in Shimla?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Almost a decade has passed since the Indian government announced the concept of "smart cities" as the new lighthouses of urbanisation. The June 2015 announcement of 100 smart cities aimed to create models of urban development. However, these lighthouses of urbanity have now been relegated to the annals of India's urbanisation history.

What went wrong with smart cities?

The smart cities initiative was based on the Internet of Things (IoT), a framework that works well in advanced capitalist countries where basic utilities are already in place. In contrast, in India, where basic services are still out of reach for many, "smart cities" essentially mean providing fundamental amenities to residents. The plan included two key components – pan-city proposals which includes IT-enabled services like mobility and waste management; and Area-Based Development (ABD) which was restricted to specific zones within a city, focusing on retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield projects. Additionally, governance of these projects bypassed local governments, relying instead on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) registered under the Companies Act, and managed like private companies. City councils were excluded, based on the assumption that private company-like structures could deliver better results.

What happened in Shimla?

Shimla was not included in the initial list of smart cities. However, after legal challenges posed by Shimla in the Himachal Pradesh High Court, Shimla was also granted the smart city tag.

Shimla's smart city plan adhered to guidelines, including pan-city initiatives and ABD projects. The city had proposed a mix of retrofit and redevelopment projects within ABD. The retrofit project had targeted improving city wide pedestrian crossings, vehicular mobility on circular roads, and three transport corridors in addition to underground ducting and parking provision. Additional features were also added that included eco-adventure tourism, and water security through storm water and spring water management. A total of 244 acres of land was supposed to be retrofitted. Redevelopment projects focused on Lower Bazar, Ganj Bazar, and Krishnanagar. The aim was to replace dilapidated, unsafe buildings with modern, resilient, earthquake-safe structures that could boost tourism.

The total estimated investment for Shimla was ₹2,906 crore, with funding sources as follows – ₹897.80 crore from Public-Private Partnerships (PPP); ₹101.77 crore through municipal bonds; ₹205.57 crore from external borrowings; and ₹348.49 crore from State and Union government schemes, and the rest from other sources. However, as of now, according to the Smart City dashboard, only ₹707 crore (24% of the original budget) has been spent: ₹53 crore on completed projects and ₹654 crore on ongoing ones. The proposed PPP contribution has not yet materialised.

What has been the outcome?

None of the funds have been utilised for the redevelopment of the Lower Bazar, Middle Bazar, or Krishnanagar. Traffic congestion has worsened, and despite initial plans, non-motorised mobility remains neglected. Instead, funds were spent on flower pots worth ₹2 crore. Moreover, large, visually intrusive structures were erected for escalators that remain non-operational, obstructing Shimla's iconic valley views.

As the Smart City Mission approaches its final chapter, the lessons are glaringly evident. Projects devoid of meaningful urban governance and public involvement, are bound to fail. With no ownership or accountability, the smart city vision has faded into oblivion.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former deputy mayor of Shimla and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

- The smart cities initiative was based on the Internet of Things (IoT), a framework that works well in advanced capitalist countries where basic utilities are already in place.
- Governance of these projects bypassed local governments, relying instead on Special Purpose Vehicles registered under the Companies Act. City councils were excluded, based on the assumption that private company-like structures could deliver better results.
- Projects devoid of meaningful urban governance and public involvement, are bound to fail.

From Page One

BBMP to auction properties of chronic tax defaulters

The dates for the auction have already been fixed. The BBMP plans to make this an ongoing process, with more properties, both commercial and residential, being auctioned weekly to recover arrears, he added.

Mr. Moudgil urged property owners to clear their dues immediately to avoid such coercive measures. With over 2 lakh properties currently in arrears, he warned that continued non-payment will result in stricter recovery action.

Coop. robbery case accused attacks police

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Three policemen were injured when one of the accused arrested in connection with the Kotekar Agricultural Co-operative Society robbery case attacked them during the spot inspection near Ullal on Tuesday, according to Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal. A Police Inspector fired at the leg of the accused, Kannan Mani, 36, when he tried to escape. All the four were admitted to Yenepoya Hospital at Deralakatte for treatment, he said.

The Commissioner said in a release that Mani, a resident of Tilak Nagar, Chembur, Mumbai, was among the three accused who were arrested from Tamil Nadu on Monday. He was brought to Mangaluru in custody and was being questioned.

When the police were conducting the spot inspection near Alankaru Gudde, K.C. Road, within the jurisdiction of Ullal Police Station at about 4.20 p.m., Mani attacked police personnel Anjanappa and Nithin with a broken beer bottle found at the spot and attempted to escape custody after pushing H.N. Balakrishna, the Investigation Officer and Ullal Police Inspector. The accused also attempted to stab the Investigation Officer.

The accompanying CCB unit Police Inspector warned the accused and fired a shot in the air. But the accused continued his assault and attempted to escape. In response, the CCB Police Inspector fired at Mani's leg, subduing him and taking him into custody.

A case is being registered at Ullal Police Station and further investigation is on, the Commissioner said.

While big coffee growers seem comfortable, others still face labour shortage

For the past five years, coffee plantations in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan districts have grappled with a crisis of workers during the crucial November-to-March harvest period

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Planters heavily rely on migrant workers, primarily from Assam and West Bengal, with smaller contingents from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and North Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka's big coffee planters, reeling under years of labour shortage, are enjoying a welcome respite this harvest season as migrant workers arrived in sufficient numbers to meet the demand even as coffee prices have hit a record high this year, offering a financial cushion to growers after years of challenges.

For the past five years, coffee plantations in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan districts have grappled with a labour crisis during the crucial November-to-March harvest period. Planters heavily rely on migrant workers, primarily from Assam and West Bengal, with smaller contingents from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and North Karnataka. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns, and the State and the general elections disrupted the arrival of these workers, exacerbating the shortage.

"We've seen a good inflow of labourers from Assam and West Bengal, unlike in recent years," said Kaibulira Harish Appaiah, former president of the Kodagu Growers' Association and executive committee member of the Kodagu Planters' Association.

"All the elections in these States are over. There is no pandemic. This has ensured that workers can travel to Karnataka without disruptions. Coupled with record-high coffee prices, growers are hopeful that this will help recover from the losses incurred over the last 15 years, and help them reinvest in their estates," he added.

However, workers from Tamil Nadu and North Karnataka have dwindled, opting for construction jobs in urban areas, such as Bengaluru. "These sectors offer regular work and comparable wages, pulling workers away from coffee estates," said Mr. Appaiah.

Kiran Hegde, a planter from Sakleshpur in Hassan, said: "Coffee harvesting is physically demanding and requires precision, which is why we rely on trained workers. The return of migrant workers has brought some relief, but it's been a tough few years for all of us."

While large coffee estates have sufficient labour, small growers are still struggling.

"It usually takes a month to harvest my five-acre plantation with adequate workers. This year, we've only managed to cover 30% so far. Despite the high prices, small growers like me cannot afford the increased wages being offered by the larger estates," said Ramesh Uthappa, a planter from Birunani village in Kodagu.

Coffee growers rued the lack of support from the State and Central governments as well as the Coffee Board.

M.T. Poovaiah, a coffee planter from South Kodagu, said: "Labour shortages have become a major challenge. Local labourers are no longer available, and we have to rely on workers from Kerala, who come here, work for the day, and return home. We bear their transportation costs and hefty labour charges, which result in significant losses. Around 80% of the profit we earn from coffee goes back into maintaining our estates throughout the year."

Notification issued to prevent discrimination against SC/ST candidates

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has issued a gazette notification to prevent discrimination against candidates on the basis of caste, religion or class, especially those from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) while making appointments on compassionate grounds.

The government has taken note of complaints filed in some government departments regarding the appointment of SC/ST candidates to lower level posts, without considering their educational qualifications, while making appointments on compassionate grounds. It has warned that disciplinary action will be taken against officers and staff of the departments if any discrimination is made in such appointments.

In case of the death of a government servant while in service, one of his dependents is allowed to be appointed on compassionate grounds on the basis of merit, as per the Karnataka Civil Services (Compassionate Appointment) Rules, 1996.

According to the rules, a candidate can be given Group 'C' or Group 'D' post, not exceeding the payscale of the assistant post of the Secretariat of the Government of Karnataka, depending on his educational qualification. The appointment has to be made considering the educational qualification of the candidate.

"However, complaints were registered with the SC/ST Welfare Committee regarding the appointment of candidates belonging to SC/ST to lower level posts without considering their educational qualifications," said P.M. Narendraswamy, MLA and chairman of the committee. An inquiry was held into the matter and it was found that officials had erred.

Violation of rules

"It is a clear violation of the rules to discriminate against candidates on the basis of caste, religion, and class even though they have all the qualifications. Therefore, I have sought that the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms issue a gazette notification to prevent any such discrimination," he said.

Following this, Veerabhadra, Under Secretary of DPAR, issued a gazette notification in this regard on January 13, 2025.

Committee welcomes

The Karnataka State Government SC/ST Employees' Coordination Committee has welcomed the notification. "Many cases have come to our notice where some officials in various departments have erred similarly. Several requests were also made to the government to take appropriate action in this regard. Finally, the government has issued a notification. The government should immediately and effectively implement this notification," urged Shivashankar, honorary president of the committee.

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Post : Company Secretary
Experience : 5 Years and above
Recruitment by : Direct Contract basis
Remuneration : Rs.60,000/- (Negotiable)
Application Submission Date :
on or before 10th February 2025.
For more details:
Website https://www.tnpolymerpark.com
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Assistant Professor	ECE | CSE | AI-ML | AI-DS | ISE | Maths Mechanical | Physics | Chemistry | MBA (Specialization-Finance & Business Analytics)	

NON - TEACHING

Position	Dept.	Qualification & Experience
Asst. Lab Instructor	CSE (AI-ML), AI-DS, ISE & ECE	Diploma in CSE / ISE / ECE or B.Sc - CS / IT. Experience in Engineering College preferred
Asst. Lab Instructor	Physics	B.Sc in PCM
Supervisor	Girls Hostel	Suitable Qualification & Experience
Asst. to Warden		
STP Operator		
Attender		

- Salary: Based on credentials & experience.
- Free staff quarters will be provided for the post of Asso. Prof.
- Application with latest colour photo and copies of qualification and experience must be sent on or before 03-02-2025 to: The Secretary, GSSS(R), KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570 016.

Dr. M. Jagannatha Shenoi, President
www.geethashishu.in
Smt. Anupama B. Pandit, Secretary

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i) The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: https://chennaimetrorail.org on or before 24-01-2025.
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Sr. Safety Officer (Fixed Tenure) (E-III grade)	1 (UR)		35 years	BE/ B.Tech - 4 years of relevant experience or ME/ M.Tech - 2 years of relevant experience

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Position	Required for	Subjects / Experience
Professor	School of Architecture	for Architecture, Structures & Arts
Asst. Professor	School of Architecture	for Architecture, Structures & Arts

- Salary: Based on credentials & experience.
- Free staff quarters will be provided for the post of Professor.
- Application with latest colour photo and copies of qualification and experience must be sent on or before 03-02-2025 to: The Secretary, GSSS(R), KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570 016.

Dr. M. Jagannatha Shenoi, President
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M BG-BGE

BUILDING BLOCKS

Why are antivenoms not easily accessible in India?

A landmark 2020 study by researchers from Canada, India, and the U.K. estimated that between 2001 and 2014, a staggering 1.2 million snakebite deaths and three-times as many cases of disability occurred in India

R.N.V. Krishna Deepak

On New Year's Day, five-year-old Mayuri lost her life to a snakebite in Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka. The delay in receiving antivenom and the unsafe conditions at her anganwadi tragically sealed her fate. She became one of the estimated 58,000 Indians who die every year from venomous snakebite, a terrible number that renders India the 'snakebite capital' of the world and highlights the scale of this preventable crisis. What makes snake venom so deadly, and how does antivenom neutralise its effects?

What are antivenoms?
Antivenoms, or antivenins, are life-saving medicines used to treat snakebites. They are produced by injecting small amounts of venom into animals, usually horses, which then produce antibodies as part of their immune response. These antibodies become antivenoms.

Snake venom is one of nature's most lethal weapons, a complex cocktail of toxic proteins, each tailored by evolution to immobilise, and in some cases to digest, prey and defend against threats. When a sufficient quantity of venom is injected during a snakebite, the toxins wreak havoc on the human body in multiple ways. Haemotoxins destroy blood cells and disrupt clotting. Neurotoxins block nerve signals and paralyse. Cytotoxins dissolve tissue at the bite site. The effects are often fatal without medical intervention.

Antivenoms are the frontline defence. They work by specifically binding to the venom toxins to render them ineffective, allowing the body's natural defence systems to clear them safely over time. But for antivenom treatment to succeed, responders need to know which snake species inflicted the wound and how much venom it injected.

Polyvalent antivenoms (PVAs) currently used in India target multiple species. However, their efficacy varies against less common snakes. Understanding each venom's complexity and the mechanisms of antibody production remains central to improving treatments.

Dangerous process: A snake-catcher extracts venom from a cobra at the venom extraction centre of the Irula snake-catchers cooperative near Mahabalipuram in 2024. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

How do antivenoms work?
The production of antivenom is a remarkable interplay of human ingenuity, animal resilience, and immunological mastery, dating back to the pioneering work of French physician Albert Calmette in the 1890s. He developed the first antivenom using horses, a practice that continues today.

To produce antivenom, healthy and mature venomous snakes are first captured from the wild by trained experts who then "milk" the snakes to extract the venom. Next, they immunise horses with increasing doses of venom over many weeks, allowing their immune systems to produce antibodies. The dose of venom injected into horses is critical: too little and the immune response will be weak; too much and the horse's body could be damaged.

Over time, the horses develop a robust immune response, producing antibodies that neutralise venom toxins. The antibodies thus produced are very specific to the type of toxins injected, like a lock and its key. This process mirrors how humans develop resistance to familiar pathogens like the flu or common-cold viruses – through repeated exposure or vaccination. The experts extract these antibodies from the horse's blood and purify and formulate them as antivenoms.

Several companies in India, including Bharat Serums and Vaccines, Haffkine Bio-pharmaceutical Corporation, and ViNS Bioproducts, produce antivenom this way. The Irula tribe of Tamil Nadu plays a crucial role in this process. The Irular people are skilled snake-catchers and can safely extract venom from snakes in controlled environments. Their expertise ensures a steady supply of high-quality venom for antivenom production in India. Without their contribution, the supply chain for these drugs would collapse.

How common is snakebite in India?
India is home to more than 300 species of snakes, of which more than 60 are venomous, ranging from mild to high. The so-called Big Four – Indian cobra (Naja naja), common krait (Bungarus caeruleus), Russell's viper (Daboia russelii), and the saw-scaled viper (genus Echis) – account for most snakebite deaths. The venom extracted from these four species is used to produce PVAs in India.

On the flip side, this means other venomous snakes – including the king cobra, monocled cobra, banded krait, Sochurek's saw-scaled viper, hump-nosed viper, and several species of pit vipers – are not covered by existing PVAs and continue to pose significant risks. As a result, victims bitten by these species often receive ineffective treatment, leading to poor outcomes.

A landmark 2020 study by researchers from Canada, India, and the U.K. estimated that between 2001 and 2014, a horrifying 1.2 million snakebite deaths and three-times as many cases of permanent disability occurred in India. The study also said one in 250 Indians were at risk of dying from snakebite before the age of 70.

These staggering mortality numbers reflect a pernicious combination of ecological, social, and systemic factors. People in rural India like agricultural workers are disproportionately affected and face a constant threat, particularly during the monsoon, when snakes become more active. Rapid, often unplanned urbanisation, poor garbage management, and urban floods have increased encounters between humans and snakes, making even city-dwellers vulnerable.

Why are antivenoms hard to get?
India is the world's largest producer and consumer of antivenoms in the world. However, access to timely medical care remains a significant challenge for many Indians. People in remote areas often undertake long journeys to reach a healthcare facility equipped with antivenoms.

Even when antivenom is available, improper administration and inadequate facilities exacerbate the crisis. Logistical issues, unequal access to care, superstitious beliefs, and cultural practices often delay proper treatment in many parts.

Antivenoms often need to be transported in cold storage, however, India's rural parts lack the supporting infrastructure and power supply. Facilities that 'make do' with the resources available can cause the antivenoms to degrade in storage and become ineffective.

The high cost of manufacturing antivenom limits accessibility for the economically-disadvantaged. This mismatch highlights the need for tailored solutions, underscoring the importance of targeted research and innovation.

How are antivenoms changing?
Antivenoms of the future are more promising. Researchers are using recombinant DNA technology to produce lab-engineered, synthetic antivenoms that are free from animal-derived proteins and offer greater safety and efficacy. Computer-designed proteins could accelerate development by helping researchers to optimise antibodies for different clinical settings.

For example, on January 15, researchers from Denmark, the U.K., and the U.S., led by 2024 Nobel laureate David Baker, reported successfully using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to design synthetic antivenoms. Their and other breakthroughs promise greater effectiveness, availability, and the potential to replace century-old methods to produce antivenoms.

Region-specific antivenoms are another promising avenue. The work of Karthik Sunagar at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, has already shed light on cross-species and geographic variability in venoms.

By mapping the toxins' compositions, scientists are attempting to create tailored antivenoms, holding the promise for more precise treatments. Portable venom-detection kits and rapid diagnostic tools are also helping guide effective antivenom use. With continued investment in research, public education, and infrastructure, India can address its snakebite crisis, with reason to hope tragedies like Mayuri's will become a thing of the past.

R.N.V. Krishna Deepak studies snake venoms using computational methods at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Give me some original ideas on how to write well."

"I am afraid I can't give you original ideas. People have been writing for centuries. Some have written extremely well on the essentials of good writing. But the thing to remember is that you can't write well by reading books on how to write. Writing improves with writing. The more you write, the better your writing becomes. Books and instructions are a help. They alone cannot make you a good writer."

"Perhaps it is like grammar."

"A grammarian need not necessarily be a good writer. He will be able to correct the writings of others. He may not be able to write well himself. To be able to point out whether a sentence is grammatical or not is one kind of skill. To be able to write well is another kind of skill. A teacher of composition will point out the good and the bad in a piece of writing. He would tell you whether the composition is logical, grammatical, coherent, whether the words used are appropriate etc etc. He may know all the essentials of good writing. But he himself may not be able to write well. Writing is a skill that is acquired by writing. We all speak our mother tongue. We acquired it effortlessly, unself-consciously as children. But not all can write satisfactorily in their own mother-tongue."

"So you are saying that if I want to become a writer, I must start writing and then my writing will improve with more and more writing. Hints on how to write will be some help at the beginning. There are born writers, aren't there?"

"Yes, there are. They don't need our advice!"

"So writing is a skill and it improves with writing. Yes?"

"Yes. The Fowler brothers wrote a book called 'The King's English' as early as 1906. This is still a standard guide to written English."

"Who was the Fowler that wrote 'Modern English Usage'?"

"It was H. W. Fowler. 'Modern English Usage' was published in 1926. H. W. Fowler and his brother, F. G. Fowler wrote 'The King's English.' The King's English is a readable, extremely useful book. The book begins thus:

"Any one who wishes to become a good writer should endeavour, before he allows himself to be tempted by the more showy qualities, to be direct, simple, brief, vigorous, and lucid. This general principle may be translated into practical rules in the domain of vocabulary as follows:-

Prefer the familiar word to the far-fetched. Prefer the concrete word to the abstract.

Prefer the single word to the circumlocution. Prefer the short word to the long. Prefer the Saxon word to the Romance. We shall discuss the rules one by one ."

"I hope you will do it with plenty of examples."

"Examples, yes. Plenty, I am not sure."

Published in The Hindu on October 18, 1994.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

January 21 marks the 80th death anniversary of Rash Behari Bose, one of the founding leaders of the Indian National Army. Here's a quiz related to the INA

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
An officer of the INA and a doctor and one of the founding members of the All India Democratic Women's Association, she was also a candidate in the presidential elections held in 2002. Name her.

QUESTION 2
The answer to Q1 was married to this colonel who was among three INA officers who were sought to be court-martialled by the British. Name all three of them.

QUESTION 3
Name the person who donned the lawyer's robe to represent the three INA officers in the Red Fort trial and later, went on to become the Prime Minister of India.

QUESTION 4
Another founding member of the INA, this former British Army officer was captured by Japanese troops in World War II in the Malayan campaign and later on, founded the INA. He wasn't, however, part of the Azad Hind Fauj led by Subhas Chandra Bose. Later on, he became a Rajya Sabha MP. Name him.

QUESTION 5
This officer, who was the General Officer in command of the INA's Burma Command, also served briefly as the Governor of the Andaman Islands during the Azad Hind Fauj's occupation. Name him.

Visual question:
Identify this INA veteran, shaking hands with Italian President Giovanni Gronchi, who went on to become the founding president of the Malayan Indian Congress and was also the ambassador to some countries after Independence. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The initial name of Coldplay. **Ans: Pectoralz**
2. Name the band's first full-length album. **Ans: Parachutes**
3. This tech mogul's memorial service in 2011 had a performance by Coldplay. **Ans: Steve Jobs**
4. The day fans observe to mark the event of one of the band's first songs being leaked online. **Ans: St. Odes Day on January 13**
5. Name the band's song which was inspired from the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attack in the U.S. **Ans: politik**
6. Name the band member who made a cameo appearance in *Game of Thrones.* **Ans: Will Champion**
Visual: Name this Coldplay song. **Ans: Hymn for the weekend**
Early Birds: Nobody got all the answers correct.

Word of the day

Indigence:
a state of extreme poverty or destitution

Synonyms: pauperism, penury

Usage: *Welfare schemes have protected millions of people from indigence.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/indigencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɪndɪʤəns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

‘PM internship scheme: companies to absorb 10% of the interns’

Opportunities Desk

Internships are the new entry-level jobs. A study by TeamLease EdTech corroborates that idea, as it found 81% of India Inc. to be backing PM’s internship scheme, and 73% of the companies intending to absorb at least 10% of their interns as full-time employees upon completion of the internship.

Insights from 932 surveyed companies show the growing role of internships in bridging skill gaps and advancing employability for Indian youth in the study titled “From Learning to Earning: The Role of CSR in Transforming Education into Employability.”

The report highlights that over 76% of the companies are prioritising tech roles within their internship programmes, showcasing the demand for digitally skilled talent.

More than 30% of the companies are planning to allocate up to 20% of their CSR budgets for internship programmes.

The survey also identified widespread support for expanding the scheme with 81% of the companies advocating for its extension to all corporations. More than 70% of the respondents also consider short-to-medium-term internships, lasting one to six months, as optimal for balancing meaningful skill development with programme efficiency. To maximise impact, 32% of the companies express a strong preference for partnerships with both universities and other corporates. Additionally, 54% of the companies anticipate a measurable Social Return on Investment (SROI) from CSR-driven internships within one to two years.

The PM Internship Scheme, introduced in the Union Budget 2024-25, mandates the top 500 companies to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth over the next five years. Each intern is entitled to a monthly stipend of ₹5,000, with companies allowed to use CSR funds to cover a portion of this stipend and associated training costs. The scheme has sparked broader discussions on its potential expansion to include smaller companies, the release added.

More than 30% of the companies are planning to allocate up to 20% of their CSR budgets for internship programmes

Photo used for representational purpose only. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Indian women workforce in MENA region set for an explosive growth, says a new study

Opportunities desk

The Middle East seems to be witnessing a remarkable transformation in workforce demographics, with Indian women leading the change. The number of Indian women migrant workers in the Middle East is projected to grow by over 71% in the next two to three years, driven by growing opportunities across hospitality, construction, healthcare and technology sectors, says a report by Huntr, a UAE based AI-driven platform.

The MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region is emerging as a key destination, with the Indian women migrant workforce expected to expand from 3.5 million to a staggering 6 million by 2027, says the report.

Nations under the Gulf Cooperation Council are fostering gender diversity in leadership and STEM fields

The hospitality sector recorded a 23% rise in demand for Indian women workers in 2023 in comparison with the previous year. Healthcare and education, too, are seeing substantial interest as the UAE’s advanced medical facilities and growing expatriate population create new opportunities for Indian professionals. Emerging sectors such as renewable energy, finance and technology are opening doors for skilled Indian women.

Nations under the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are fostering gender diversity in leadership and STEM fields. In the UAE, women constitute 41% of government university STEM graduates, surpassing the global average. This momentum is expected to continue, with initiatives such as Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 promoting female workforce participation, projected to reach 36% by 2025.

Pay parity

The report says that most of the opportunities come with equal incentives. This comes after the UAE’s 2020 law mandating equal pay for men and women in the private sector, along with Saudi Arabia’s ongoing efforts to narrow its gender pay gap. Women in industries such as healthcare, technology and consumer goods anticipate salary hikes of up to 4.5% in 2025, further enhancing the attractiveness of Middle Eastern markets for Indian women.

Indian women are also making strides in entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to the UAE’s economy through nearly 50,000 business ventures valued at AED 60 billion. Support programmes such as “She’s Next,” the Dubai Business Women Council and Hub71 are empowering women to establish and scale enterprises in fields ranging from fintech to renewable energy, the report adds.

GENERAL

GSSS
GEETHA SHISHU SHIKSHANA SANGHA (R)
SIMHA SUBBAMAHALAKSHMI FIRST GRADE COLLEGE
(Affiliated to UoM, Mysuru, Recognized by Govt. of Karnataka)
KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570016

APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION

Designation	Eligibility Criteria
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ASSISTANT PROFESSOR - English, Sanskrit & Hindi	Candidate with min. 5 years of experience with NET/KSET and pursuing Ph.D preferred
ASST. LAB INSTRUCTOR - BCA	Candidate with min. 2 years of experience with Diploma in CS / B.Sc - CS / BCA.

1. Fluency in English is mandatory for all the posts
2. Salary is not a constraint for the right candidate.
3. Free staff quarters will be provided for the post of Asso. Prof.
4. Application with latest colour photo and copies of qualification and experience must be sent on or before 03-02-2025 to: The Secretary, GSSS(R), KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570 016.

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- Hard copy through post to The Registrar, Sapthagiri NPS University, No.14/5, Chikkasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 057.
- Interested candidates may apply on or before 07 days from the date of Advertisement.

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GENERAL

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Electronics & Communication Engineering
SPECIALIZATION: VLSI Design and Process Technology | Embedded Systems and Networking | Wireless Communication

Science & Humanities, Civil Engineering
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- ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SPECIALIZATION:
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Manipal Law School
- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
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Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
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- ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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BJP creating antagonism between leaders: Kharge

The party is twisting history to create differences between leaders who fought for us, our rights, and our interests. We should be wary of such ploys, says AICC president at Belagavi rally

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday countered the BJP's constant allegation that the party had "insulted" B.R. Ambedkar and his legacy, arguing that the saffron party was only "repeating a lie" in the hope of "twisting history" to create artificial differences between leaders such as Gandhiji and Ambedkar.

Centenary event: AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti sharing a light moment in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

'Not reading enough'

"The BJP and the RSS are trying to create differences between leaders by twisting history. They are telling false tales to make us believe there were serious differences or even disputes between Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These are far from the truth. But we tend to believe them as we are not doing enough reading ourselves," he said, speaking at the Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan rally here. The rally was held to commemorate the centenary of the only Congress session chaired by Gandhiji, which was held in Belagavi in 1924.

> They are telling false tales to make us believe there were serious differences or even disputes between Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and B.R. Ambedkar. These are far from the truth. But we tend to believe them as we are not doing enough reading ourselves.
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE,** Congress president

"The question of the Congress insulting Dr. Ambedkar does not arise at all. It was the Congress that ensured that Dr. Ambedkar was elected to the Rajya Sabha twice unopposed. M.R. Jayakar quit his Rajya Sabha seat on the advice of senior Congress leaders. Dr. Ambedkar was accommodated in his place," he said.

Gandhiji had suggested that Dr. Ambedkar be appointed the president of the Constitution drafting committee, and leaders like Nehru had agreed to it, said Mr. Kharge. "It was the Congress that installed a statue of Dr. Ambedkar in front of the Parliament building. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, S. Radhakrishnan was the President of India, and Hukum Singh was the Speaker. It is the BJP that shifted the statue to a corner of the Parliament premises, away from the eyes of visitors," he added.

Mr. Kharge also countered the BJP-RSS leaders' allegation that Congress was responsible for the defeat suffered by Ambedkar in the Lok Sabha election. He read out from the copy of a handwritten letter by Ambedkar to his friend Kamalakant, in which he said that Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar and Communist leader S.A. Dange were responsible for his defeat.

When leaders agreed

He read out from a speech of Ambedkar made in the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha meeting in Belagavi district in 1924, where he said he welcomed Gandhiji's vow to fight for the abolition of untouchability. "Dr. Ambedkar said he would support Gandhiji as he was speaking his language. These are all well documented and we should know them," he advised his partymen.

"The BJP worships Savarkar and his follower and Gandhiji's killer Nathuram Godse, who were spreading the ideology of hatred and division. They do not worship our heroes who fought for unity and love."

"It is clear that the BJP is trying to create differences between leaders who fought for us, our rights and our interests. We should be wary of such ploys," he said.

He reiterated his demand for the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks about Ambedkar in Parliament. "What does Mr. Shah mean by saying that you would have gone to heaven if you had chanted God's name as many times as you took Dr. Ambedkar's name? It means that Dr. Ambedkar's is not worthy of adulation," he said.

Speaking later, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urged that such conventions should be held elsewhere too. "This convention must not stop here. We are organising Gandhi Bharat programmes in the State throughout the year. Similar programmes must be held across the country. I appeal to Mr. Kharge and other leaders to hold such programmes in all taluks in India," he said.

Mahatma Gandhi was a true Hindu, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

"Some BJP members keep alleging that Mahatma Gandhi was anti-Hindu. But he was a true Hindu. He sought reforms and eradication of social evils like untouchability and discrimination," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said at a programme to unveil the statue of Gandhiji in front of the Suvarna Soudha here on Tuesday.

"Till his last breath, he was chanting the name of Lord Ram. Nathuram Godse, a man who was blinded by communal hatred, shot Gandhiji. Even then, Gandhiji said *Hey Ram* and died. There is no need for a better example to prove that he was a true Hindu," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. He said while the Congress believes in the Hindu faith as understood by Gandhiji, the BJP believes in "dividing the society on the basis of caste and religion".

Commemoration: AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Siddaramaiah, D.K. Shivakumar, and others during the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Suvarna Soudha premises in Belagavi on Tuesday. P.K. BADIGER

Describing Gandhiji's spirit of reforms as true Hinduism, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "He worked towards the abolition of untouchability, empowering women, and communal harmony. He wanted Hindus and Muslims to live as brothers. He not only helped us fight against British rule but was also instrumental in shaping the post-independence government and system of governance. We should all be indebted to him." He said saints like Basavanna also fought against such social evils and such ideals were included in the Constitution by B.R. Ambedkar.

> Till his last breath, he was chanting the name of Lord Ram. Nathuram Godse, a man who was blinded by communal hatred, shot Gandhiji. Even then, Gandhiji said *Hey Ram* and died.
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

'Not just against party'

Speaking later at the 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' public rally, the Chief Minister said, "Our fight against the BJP is not against a political party. It is a fight between our ideology of inclusion and their ideology of exclusion. It is a fight between unity and division, love and hatred, between harmony and hatred."

Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that both BJP and RSS are "totally opposed to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Constitution" and said that RSS members had burnt in effigies Dr. Ambedkar, Gandhiji, and Nehru at Delhi's Ram Leela Maidan on December 12, 1940. "They are opposed not just to the Constitution but the idea of democracy itself. That is why, their leaders try to act like autocrats," he said.

Several leaders, including Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and members of the Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet, participated in the event.

S.T. Somashekar, BJP MLA

Somashekar attends Gandhi statue event

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

BJP MLA and former Minister S.T. Somashekar attended the unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday.

He said he attended the event as it was a government programme and that he had been invited by the Government of Karnataka. "I am an original Congressman and a follower of Gandhiji. Others may play politics, but I will not do that. Playing politics over everything is not good. It is true that there is a lot of difference between the BJP and Gandhiji's ideology. Some BJP members and leaders may not come, but I have come as I believe in Gandhiji's ideology," he said.

To a query, Mr. Somashekar said he is not thinking about joining the Congress as of now. "Let us see later," he said.

BJP calls it a 'fair to commemorate 60% commission'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP on Tuesday termed the Belagavi convention of the Congress as a "fair to commemorate collection of 60% commission" and that the event had nothing to do with Gandhian or Ambedkarite ideology.

The party even demanded accounts from the Congress to show whether the programme was funded by the party or the government.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok took exception to the holding of the event amid the alleged failure by the government to maintain law and order.

Taking exception to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge likening Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to Kittur Rani Chennamma, he said such a comparison had insulted the people of Karnataka who revere the martyr queen.

Health Dept. to launch free monthly antenatal check-up camps today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of a series of maternal deaths reported in Karnataka, the Health Department will launch an antenatal care campaign for pregnant women across the State.

Under this campaign, aimed at promoting maternal safety and well-being through the 'Maatrutva Suraksha Abhiyaan', free health check-up camps will be conducted for pregnant women on the 9th and 24th of every month (twice a month) at State-run health facilities. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao will launch this campaign at a massive health camp for pregnant women to be held in Raichur on Wednesday.

Officials said the Health Department is working on providing quality healthcare services to pregnant women, particularly those at high risk. The government's approach includes systematic measures to address gaps in maternal health services, especially after the Ballari maternal deaths.

Awareness drive

The Health Minister has directed officials to create awareness about good nutrition and the importance of folic acid supplementation during the monthly camps. This is apart from the regular screening for pregnant women, including monitoring of blood pressure, weight gain, and blood tests for early detection of complications, if any.

For high-risk pregnancies, dedicated follow-up should be done with additional consultations beyond the standard antenatal care schedule, the Minister directed the officials.

Mandatory oral glucose tolerance tests (OGTT) for gestational diabetes, routine administration of folic acid and calcium supplements, immunisation and infection control, including administering two doses of tetanus toxoid (TT) vaccines for all pregnant women, apart from other measures to address potential health risks are part of the campaign.

Awareness drives will be conducted for families so that they can recognise danger signs during pregnancy and get guidance on accessing emergency care.

'Licensed deed writers must be aware that law enjoins certain duties on them'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Licensed deed writers must be aware that they are functioning on a licence granted under the Karnataka Registration (Deed Writers Licence) Rules, 1979, which enjoins certain duties upon them in preparing the deeds for registration, the Karnataka High Court has said.

The court made these observations while refusing to quash a criminal case registered against a deed writer for scribing an agreement for the sale of a land parcel based on a general power attorney (GPA), which was allegedly a forged one, without doing even a basic verification as has been specified under the Rules.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by 52-year-old Shekhar of Doddaballapur taluk in Bengaluru Rural district. The petitioner-deed writer had claimed that he could not be roped in as an accused in the criminal case as his role was limited while pointing out that he had verified the revenue records and the records of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) presented to him and affixed his seal and signature on the deed of agreement of sale, a draft of which was handed over to him by an advocate.

Declining to interfere with the investigation at this stage, the court pointed out that Rule 2(i) specifically states "a deed writer is one engaged in the profession of preparing or writing deeds for registration, which includes the work of conveyancing, investigation of title, preparation of draft deed, and engrossing deed on stamp paper."

Therefore, the court said, it cannot be said that the petitioner, who is a licensed deed writer, in terms of the Rules, has no duty to look into all the papers, as his duty includes conveyancing and investigation of title.

What FIR said

The first information report (FIR) was registered on the complaint given by the actual GPA holder, who holds the GPA for his father-in-law, alleging that a person impersonating the complainant had entered into an agreement for sale of around three acres of land belonging to complainant's father-in-law for ₹1.15 crore. The agreement for sale was registered in the office of the Doddaballapur sub-registrar, who is also arraigned as one of the accused in the case. However, the sale deed is yet to be registered.

The court also noted that the photographs in the Aadhaar card and the registered original GPA, held by the complainant, completely matched even on a cursory look but the photograph of the GPA holder in the agreement of sale is completely different even on its *prima facie* look. Therefore, the petitioner ought to have looked into the documents produced before him, as the statute enjoins a duty to be performed by him.

The case requires an investigation as there exists a *prima facie* case against the petitioner, the court said.

NIA arrests another accused in Praveen Nettaru murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials on Tuesday arrested a key accused in the Praveen Nettaru murder case.

Ateeq Ahmed is the 21st accused to be arrested in the case relating to the killing of Praveen at Bellare village in Dakshina Kannada district in July 2022, allegedly by members of the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI).

According to the NIA, Ateeq had, under the PFI leadership's guidance, harboured and assisted Mustafa Paichar, identified as the chief conspirator in the case.

"Mustafa had planned and executed the murder, carried out as part of the PFI agenda to trigger fear and communal unrest among the people. After the attack, Mustafa absconded and Ateeq facilitated his movement, including transporting him to Chennai. He had helped Mustafa evade law enforcement till the latter's arrest in May 2024," the NIA statement said.

Takes over case

The NIA, which took over the case from the local police in August 2022, had found during the investigation that the PFI had formed secret teams, referred to as "PFI Service Teams", and trained members in arms and surveillance to carry out targeted killings such as that of Nettaru.

The agency is continuing with its investigation to trace the remaining six accused, against whom rewards have been announced, according to the statement.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

You personified the qualities of a कर्मयोगी (Karmayogi) as well as ज्ञानयोगी (Gyanayogi) using the twin paths of Action as well as Knowledge. And thus being a teacher all through your life, you led the path that you preached.

यः सर्वत्रानभिस्नेहस्तत्तत्प्राप्य शुभाशुभम् |
नाभिनन्दति न द्वेष्टि तस्य प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठिता ||

That person who remains unattached under all conditions & sides, and who feels no exultation about good fortune or dejection about failures, is a saint with perfect knowledge.

S Jayalaxmi

Former Teacher at Keyes High School For Girls, Former Teacher at Vidyaranya High School for Boys & Girls, Retd Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Government Lecturer

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10th Day Ceremony on 24th January and 13th Day Shubhasyasweekaram & Memorial Luncheon on 27th January 2025, at East Marredpally Secunderabad.

Remembered by
Mr. P.Rajamony.Iyer *(Son-in-law)*

Grandsons & Grand Daughter(s)-in-law
Mr. Mukund Rajamony Iyer &
Mrs. Kalyani Iyer
Mr. Balaji Iyer & Mrs. Smitha Subhas

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

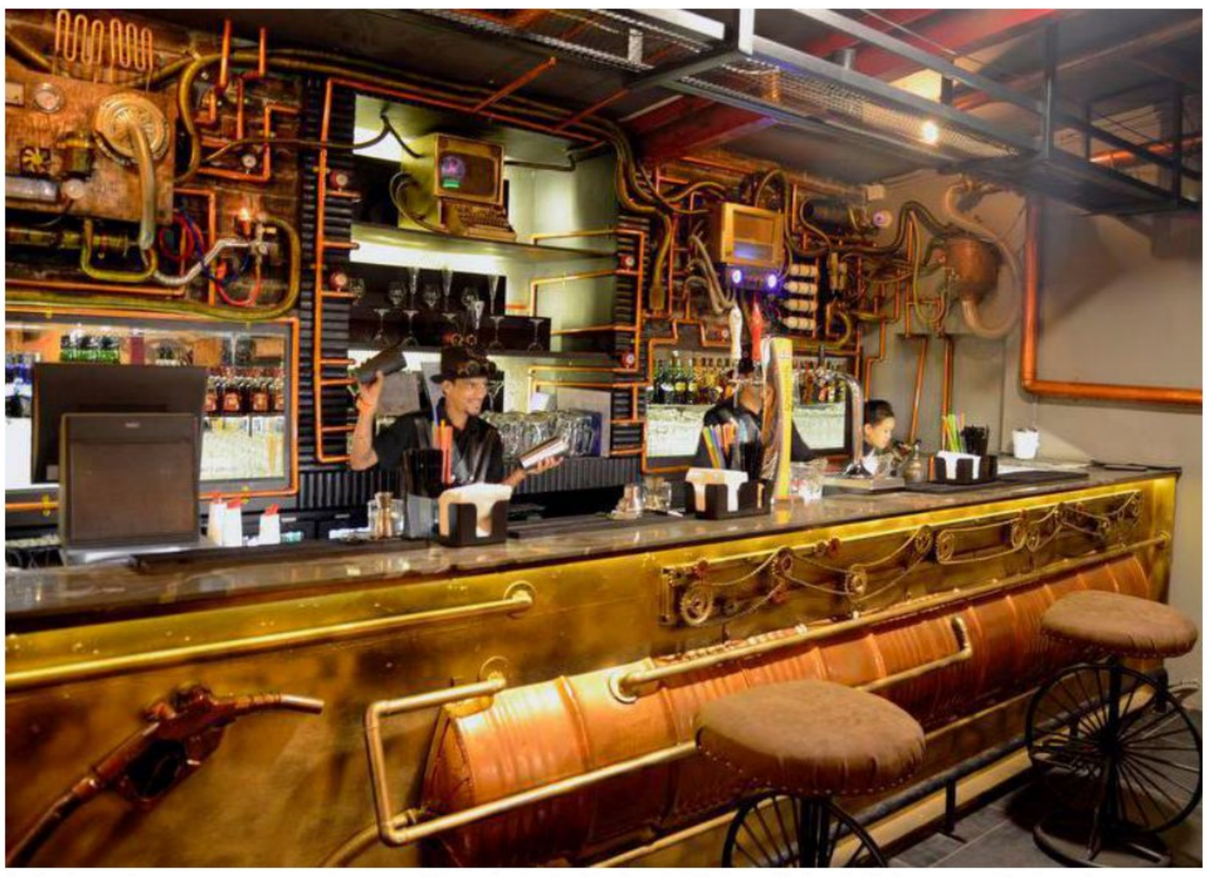
How bartenders are crafting cocktails and breaking barriers in Bengaluru

Bartending is now an accepted profession and seen even as a skill and an art form in a city like Bengaluru. However, the job comes with its own challenges

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Celebrated for its cosmopolitan charm and dynamic nightlife, Bengaluru has witnessed a remarkable transformation in its bartending culture over the years. The city's bars and pubs are counted among the finest in the world, with a new generation of bartenders who have elevated their craft to an art form.

However, despite the glam and shine the bartending world holds, it comes with its own challenges and demands. Entrepreneurs, mixologists and bartenders from across Bengaluru shared with *The Hindu* how they got into the field, why they chose the path and what keeps them going.



Bartenders and servers are now engaging more with guests, sharing the story behind a cocktail, and offering personalised experiences.

> Post COVID-19, this is currently the best time for the bartending in Bengaluru and across the world.
>
> **AVINASH KOPALI**
> Founder of Kompany Hospitality

GETTY IMAGES

Pace and pressure

For 27-year-old Midhun S.S. from Thiruvananthapuram, a bartender at Jolly Gunj in J.P. Nagar, getting into the world of bartending was an accident that he eventually fell in love with. "I studied hotel management but was always into music and wanted to be a DJ. I had no scope for it back in Kerala. So one day I decided to pack my bags, come to Bengaluru and find any job at a club that would help me connect with other DJs and build a career. I got into service and bartending, eventually I fell in love with the job, and kept my dreams of being a DJ aside. Even if I get a promotion and get paid more, bartending is something I would love to continue doing," said Midhun.

He, however, added that bartending as a job is something that is frowned upon and not accepted in his hometown. "It is considered just a service job or more like a waiter making drinks," he said. He would love to tell the world more about the art form and would want to open his own cocktail bar some day.

Rohan Desai from Assam, a bartender at a popular pub on Church Street, said that bartending is not just about making drinks but more about creating experiences. "I love meeting people from all walks of life and seeing their faces light up when they taste something new or unexpected. The biggest challenge is the pace and pressure. Even if you are on a 10-hour shift, it is those last two to three hours during the night where the bar gets super busy. On a busy night, it's like a high-stakes performance, you can't miss a beat. You also must stay patient and professional, even when dealing with difficult customers or managing long hours," he said. He said that the job is physically and mentally demanding, but the satisfaction of a well-run shift makes it worth it.

For Arvind R., a bartender at a restobar in Indiranagar, the job began as a way to support himself while transitioning between careers, but it quickly became a calling. "I took up bartending as a temporary job, but the energy behind the bar and the creativity it offered hooked me instantly. It is not just about making drinks, it is about creating experiences," he shared. But the job comes with its challenges. "The long hours can take a toll, especially when you're on your feet all night. The pressure during peak hours is intense, you have to stay calm and focused. But despite the challenges, the sense of accomplishment at the end of a busy shift makes it all worth it."

Huge demand

Avinash Kopali, the founder of Kompany Hospitality that runs Cocktail Kompany, Jamming Goat, SOKA and many other outlets across the city, said that there is a huge demand for bartenders in the city.

"Post COVID-19, this is currently the best time for the bartending in Bengaluru and across the world. Post the pandemic people have in general become more aware of everything they do and want to have a deeper understanding. People want to understand what goes into their drink and a lot more. Every bar now wants a great mixologist and a strong group of bartenders, so the demand for more bartenders in the city is very high," said Avinash. However, many complain that bartenders are not paid enough for what the job entails. "I remember when I used to work at a restaurant many years ago, and online taxi platforms like Uber and Ola were introduced, many people from the industry opted to become a driver because they would earn much more just driving around the city for a couple of hours, than what they were paid for as a chef or a bartender or a server. Even after these many years, bartenders are still not paid enough," said Avinash. He claimed that with the existing excise rules, restrictions by the government etc., it becomes hard for bar owners to pay good salaries to bartenders.

Many complain that bartenders are not paid enough for what the job entails. AP

Access to information

Avinash said that back when he started to learn bartending at a school, he was taught only the bartending flairs and tricks but never on what goes into the drink they are making.

"To make a good cocktail, it is important for bartenders of this age to go out and taste cocktails at other bars. They now have access to a lot of information both online and in person. Very often master classes or bar takeovers happen in Bengaluru, which are focused specifically on bartenders. Liquor brands do extensive amount of work in terms of advocacy for bartenders, they do taste sessions, experts tell you how the drinks are made," he said. Many bars now have "bar takeovers", where there are international bartenders or bartenders from across the country come down, take over the bar for a day, and share their tricks and recipes. "This really helps the bartenders working at that bar and their excellence towards creating drinks becomes much better," Avinash explained.

People in the industry also say that while there is now formal training by way of courses and diplomas in bartending, they are still not up to the mark. "After my hotel management degree I did a bartending course in Goa, which was very expensive but not up to the mark. A lot of my colleagues and friends in the industry got into courses too. But most of us learnt the skills only after our first job, and through master classes that happen at bars," said Midhun.

Stereotypes

Rajiv Mukherjee, head mixologist at ZLB 23, a bar at The Leela Palace, HAL, said that the perception of hotel bars has been evolving over the years, making them increasingly popular and approachable. "There are long-standing stereotypes about how a hotel bar must be run compared to a regular bar. Traditionally, hotel bars were seen as formal spaces with rigid expectations for service, where bartenders would present the menu, take orders, and serve drinks with little to no interaction beyond that. While this level of professionalism is great, it can often lack warmth or a sense of connection," he said.

However, things are changing. Bartenders and servers are now engaging more with guests, sharing the story behind a cocktail, and offering personalised experiences.

"This shift is creating a more relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Hotel bars were once considered exclusive or even intimidating, catering primarily to formal clients or business travellers."

"Today, they are embracing all kinds of guests, locals, tourists, families, and young professionals. It is a transformation that is reshaping the identity of hotel bars entirely," Rajiv explained.

Fewer women on the job

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The profession of bartending has remained largely a male dominant industry considering the pressure that comes with the job.

Avinash Kopali, who runs many outlets in the city, said that there are not enough women in the field, though the perception is changing. "The job requires you to put in a lot of physical efforts, which might be taxing. Women may also not get enough opportunities at bars, as not many bartenders or anyone who works at a bar is used to working around a woman. However, the perception has evolved over the years, and it is changing," he said.

Bengaluru-based age-tech start-up Sukoon Unlimited raises ₹3.7 crore in pre-seed funding

Sukoon Unlimited aims to combat loneliness and create a sense of belonging for seniors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sukoon Unlimited, a Bengaluru-based age-tech start-up and community-driven platform for seniors has raised 4,30,000 (₹ 3.7 Crore approximately) in a pre-seed funding round. The round saw notable investors like Anchorage Capital Partners(India), Dr. Vinay Jain, a leading oncologist and philanthropist, Manish Dureja, Rahul Dash, Prantik Mazumdar, Neeraj Sagar, and Sudhir Kamath. The capital will enable Sukoon Unlimited to enhance its platform, scale its operations, and expand its community of seniors across India.

Founded in 2024 by Vibha Singal, an Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad alumna, Sukoon Unlimited aims to combat loneliness and create a sense of belonging for seniors. According to the company, its "For Seniors, By Seniors" approach empowers seniors with autonomy and dignity.

Research shows that one in three seniors experiences loneliness, which can heighten the risk of depression and physical illnesses. Social connections, however, can reduce these risks by up to 30%. Leveraging an AI tech-first strategy, Sukoon Unlimited claims to support the mental, emotional, social, and physical well-being of seniors, providing a holistic solution for the problems many seniors phase. The start-up's use of Conversational AI helps to ensure that seniors have companionship and support around the clock.

Commenting on the funding, Vibha Singal, founder and CEO of Sukoon Unlimited, said, "Having seen my parents and loved ones grow older, I've witnessed how they become more emotionally vulnerable. As they age, they often seek a sense of purpose and connection, and it's clear that those emotional needs are just as important as physical ones. This experience inspired me to create Sukoon Unlimited."

The capital will enable Sukoon Unlimited to enhance its platform, scale up operations, and expand its community of seniors across India. GETTY IMAGES

"By joining hands with like-minded individuals, we are working together toward a common goal—to make sure no senior has to navigate ageing alone. We are deeply thankful to our investors for supporting us at this early stage, helping us turn our vision into reality and build a community where seniors can rediscover joy, forge meaningful connections, and feel valued every day."

One of the lead investors, Geet Lulla, Senior Advisor- Anchorage Capital Partners(India), added, "Sukoon Unlimited is addressing a fundamental challenge in senior care—combating loneliness by fostering connections and purpose. In a world that is rapidly ageing, platforms like Sukoon Unlimited are essential to ensuring the well-being of our elders. Vibha and her team have demonstrated remarkable vision and empathy, and I am honoured to be a part of their journey to create a more inclusive, supportive society for seniors."

Since its launch eight months ago, Sukoon Unlimited has reached over 2,000 seniors across 250+ cities globally.

"This funding will be instrumental in refining product-market fit, building a skilled team, exploring growth channels, and creating awareness to expand Sukoon's reach and impact," said a release from the company.

Key offerings from Sukoon Unlimited include Sukoon Sarathi which enables seniors to create meaningful connections, share collective experiences and foster a supportive and empathetic community, Sukoon Support Groups and Counselling, Community Events and Sukoon Assistance, a personalized concierge service to help seniors navigate tech tools, verify unknown payment links or calls, and even find meaningful volunteering opportunities in their cities.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1975

Bangalore Varsity Classes Suspended Following Violence

Bangalore, Jan 21: The Bangalore University has suspended until further notice all classes at its Central College and Jnana Bharati campuses except civil engineering classes following violence during the continuing strike by post-graduate students to-day.

Dr. H. Narasimhaiah Vice-Chancellor, told, pressmen that the university had conceded promptly the only demand with which it

was directly concerned, namely the abolition of the third class in the postgraduate examinations. All the three other demands of the Central Collate Association, namely raising the age limit for post-graduates for employment in Government service from 28 to 33 years, opportunities for Master of social Work Graduates to serve in the social welfare and other departments and the publication of the Rahamatulla Committee report, did not concern the University, it was strange that the University should have become the target.

The Registrar Mr. L. Surya Prasad the Controller of Examinations Mr. H. K. Dase Gowda and the Central College Principal, Dr. M. Shadakshraswamy narrated today's incidents to some of which they were eye witnesses. The first incident reported here is the deflation of tyres of six buses of the University near Remco while they were coming from Jana Bharati Campus.

Vocalist, orator and Sanskrit scholar TS Satyavathi will be conferred the Purandara Award by the Indiranagar Sangeeta Sabha on January 24

An ode to master and disciple

Ranjani Govind

Five years ago when Carnatic vocalist TS Sathyavathi received a standing ovation at Chennai's Music Academy, she spoke at length about her guru, RK Srikantan. Now, she follows in her guru's footsteps receiving the first Purandara Award her guru received from the Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha in Bengaluru about three decades ago.

"The Purandara Award is my guru's blessings. Although every award is an honour, this one is special as it is in the name of our sangeeta pitamaha, Sri Purandaradasa. With events and awards that propagate the classical arts, the Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha is doing great service to music connoisseurs and East Bangaloreans," says Sathyavathi.

Much like her guru, the Dasa Sahitya holds a place close to Sathyavathi's heart; she has released numerous albums and over four dozen *dasara padagalu* (hymns) in praise of Purandaradasa, a saint composer and Haridasa philosopher born in the 15th century.

"Almost every saint-composer was inspired by Purandaradasa – from Tyagaraja who penned Bhakthi-laden kritis and the Suladi talas of Dikshitar to Mysore royal, Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, who preferred a similar rhythmic structure in his compositions," explains Sathyavathi.

Glorious start

Sathyavathi had a sterling start to a life of music, performing for the Maharani of Mysore as a two-year-old. She was born to TS Srinivasa Murthy and Rangalakshmi, a musician who revelled in Dasa Sahitya. She pursued a M.Phil degree in Sanskrit from Bangalore University and her thesis was on the 'Contributions of Abhilashithartha Chintamani (Manasollasa) to Indian Music'. She later topped her Vidwat in Carnatic classical music too.

Playful but observant, "music came to me freely while growing up," says Sathyavathi, recalling the strains of her mother's Dasara Padas. Initially trained under her sisters, Vasantha Madhavi and Vasundhara, she received expert guidance under RK Srikantan.

Her first performance was at the Karnataka Ganakala Parishath as a 16-year-old. With an interest in the research-based study of music, she developed her skills under the guidance of musicologist BVK Sastry and her interest in Laya, made her study the mridanga under Bangalore
K Venkataraman.

Snapshots of a life well lived (From top left) TS Sathyavati receiving the Ganakalashree, with her students, accepting the Sangeetha Pracharya Award. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Now at 70, Sathyavathi says she never imagined herself as a scholar – singing, teaching Sanskrit, authoring innumerable papers and leading musical productions. Owing all her achievements to her childhood and academic influences, she says, "I used to stay at VV Puram as a schoolgirl in the late 1960s and studied at the Maharashtra Mahila Vidyalaya (now Vasavi Vidyaniketan). I later attended the Acharya Pathasala College. I vividly remember participating in competitions for Sanskrit, on the *Ramayana*, devotional and patriotic songs, as well as *sampradaya* songs akin to *jaanapada* (folk) during festivals and occasions."

"Recitations in Sanskrit would include works of Kalidasa such as *Raghuvamsha, Shakuntala* and *Meghadhoota*. Right from high school, music was one of my favourite subjects. I believe music and Sanskrit are my eyes, blessing me with the vision of an artiste."

In her guru's footsteps

Just as RK Srikantan (RKS) trained hundreds of students with individual classes and distance learning programs, Sathyavathi too believes in taking music forward by building the blocks of creativity within the frame of tradition. "My journey as a student of RKS goes back to the days when I received the National Cultural Scholarship and opted to learn rare compositions of the Trinity under him, something I continued from 1974 to 2014."

Sathyavathi remembers a workshop in Shivamogga where RKS asked her to take over a concert as he was feeling unwell. "Despite his backache, RKS waited for me to finish singing so he could come over to the mic and laud my performance."

Despite the numerous awards she has received over the years, Sathyavathi is proudest of the fact that 16 of her students are graded AIR artistes, proficient in Sanskrit. On February 9, she will also be awarded the Kala Jyothi from the Nada Jyothi Sabha in Malleswaram.

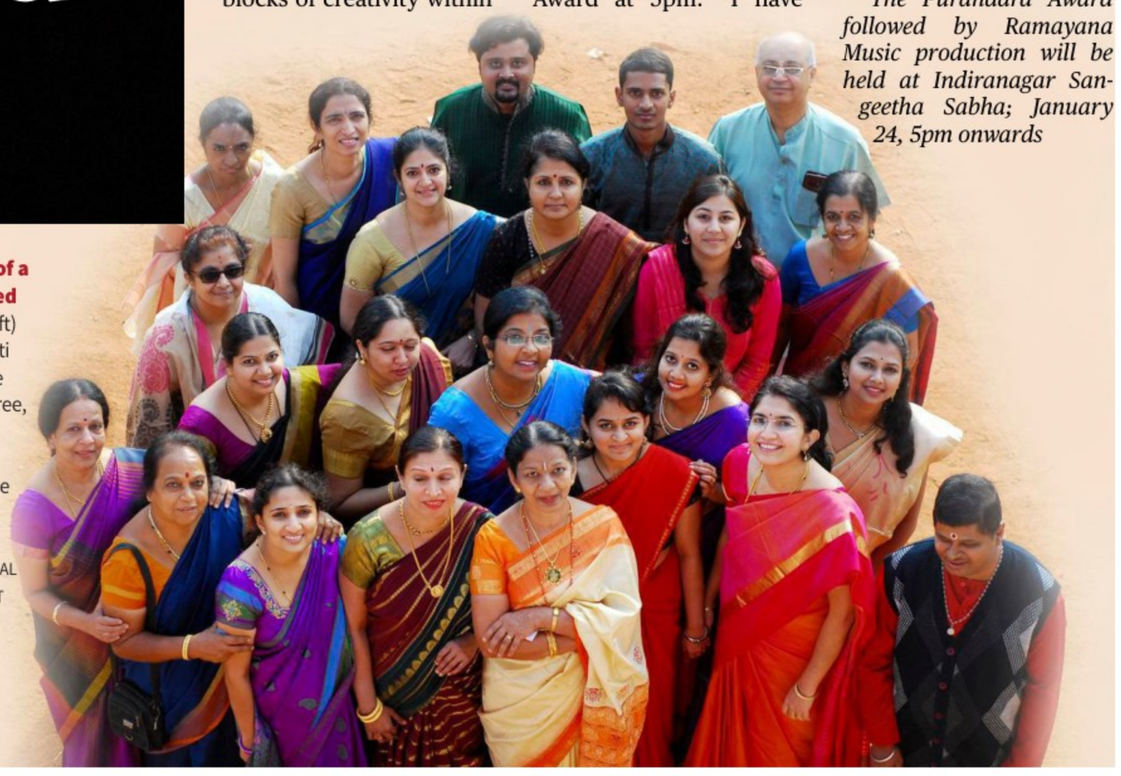
Epic presentation

The 'Ramayane Geetaayanam' will be presented by TS Sathyavathi, her team of students and other performing artistes on January 24, after she is bestowed with the Purandara Award at 5pm. "I have culled out shlokas from Valmiki's *Ramayana,* verses that depict particular moods and sentiments (*rasa bhava*) and have set them to music. Some are structured compositions set to *tala*, while some are shlokas that have been elaborated. I have chosen verses that depict almost all the *rasas* such as *Shrungara, Haasya, Karuna, Veerya, Adbuta* and *Rowdra*."

On why she chose the evocative *Shubhabantuvarali* for 'Dasharata Vilaapa', she says,"One has to realise the vision of the composer, the lines should linger and inspire you to employ the right raga scale."

For 'Gangaavatarana' where Vishvamitra's description to Lord Rama and Lakshmana of how Bhagiratha brings down the flow of the Ganges, she has chosen Atana to explain the cadenced flow of the river. Two of Sathyavathi's students, Arati Balasubramanyam and KS Sumana, will provide the narration for the production that consists of eight singers.

The Purandara Award followed by Ramayana Music production will be held at Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha; January 24, 5pm onwards



Comics come alive

Fantasia Glimpses of Bengaluru Comic Con 2025. THE HINDU

Priyamedha Dutta

For 51-year-old Bhuvana Raj, comic con is all about reliving her childhood days. "I have come here with my son and daughter. This is my second visit. I get to learn so many things from the youngsters around me."

The recently-concluded Bengaluru Comic Con saw a surge of people from all over the city. The 12th edition of the two-day festival took place at the KTPO Trade Centre Whitefield, which became the ultimate destination for comic, anime, manga, gaming and everything pop culture.

From classics such as Deadpool, Superman, and Batman to anime favourites such as Luffy, Naruto, Chainsaw Man, Nezuko and Gogo, the event witnessed over 5,000 cosplayers. Fans were found flaunting Indian favourites like Chacha Chaudhary and Suppandi with their costumes.

The presence of M.A.D's Rob brought back childhood memories. He showcased his creative brilliance through an interactive session with comedian Rohan Joshi.

Bengaluru stand-ups Rahul Subramanian, Azeen Banatwalla and Pilot Gomma turned up the humour quotient at the event.

For college student Abir, cosplaying as Wind Master from Heaven Official's Blessing, reading comics was a solace.

"Since my dad had a transferable job, we moved around, and I did not have constant friends. That is when I turned to comics as an escape and something that made me happy. When you come to an event like this, you realise how open the community is. You get to meet many like-minded people."

Dressed as Raven from Teen Titans, Trina agrees that putting together a costume is quite an arduous task.

"There are so many elements in my outfit that I ended up borrowing from my friends to put it all together. With the makeup, it took me an hour to get ready for the event."

Visitors were spoiled for choice with the plethora of merchandise available at the venue, and stalls with comic books that ranged from Marvel and DC to books by Indian comic writers and Japanese manga. Gaming enthusiasts were treated to VR setups and gaming zones.

Jatin Varma, founder of Comic Con India, shared, "Bengaluru has always been at the heart of India's pop culture movement. This 12th edition is a testament to the growing passion and love for comics, anime, and all things fandom in the country. As we move forward, we aim to build on this momentum, creating even bigger and more exciting experiences for fans across India."

The Chennai Comic Con is scheduled on February 8 and 9, 2025.

FILM REVIEW

A soulless sequel

Not true to life Srinagara Kitty and Rachita Ram in a still from *Sanju Weds Geetha 2*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek MV

In Nagashekar's *Sanju Weds Geetha 2,* the lead couple (essayed by Rachita Ram and Srinigara Kitty) are seated against the backdrop of a scenic waterfall in a crucial scene. Geetha expresses her love for Sanju, saying marriage is everything to her. She doesn't believe in understanding a person by spending some time with him before taking a call on the relationship.

Now, you might wonder why the two of them, who met and fell in love in a city, must choose a secluded, even if picturesque, location to communicate something significant yet customary. Here is where Nagashekar, as a director, reveals his priorities. He is a filmmaker who banks heavily on exotic locales and melodious music to narrate his stories.

You might also wonder why Geetha has such an outdated opinion about relationships, especially when she met Sanju in a chance encounter and developed feelings for him. It shows that Nagashekar continues to go nowhere close to reality regarding love stories. An old-school, fairytale-like romantic drama still fascinates him.

Nothing is believable in this done-to-death, poor-man-loving-rich-girl story. Learning about his daughter's relationship with an ordinary silk weaver, Geetha's father reminds her about their so-called stature. "I gifted you a Rolls-Royce when you joined school," he tells her. If this stereotypical depiction of an evil father wasn't enough, the director scripts a cliched character arc for his protagonist. Sanju is a large-hearted man, despite his meagre earnings and this impresses Geetha.

From the beginning of the second half, we know the story is headed towards a tragic end. Geetha suffers a life-threatening lung disease, and the film's treatment of the situation is ridiculous. The director's lack of judgment in handling the serious conflicts of his story influences performances, with Rachita and Kitty looking clueless in several scenes.

Sanju Weds Geetha 2 is a spiritual sequel to the 2013 blockbuster *Sanju Weds Geetha*. Starring Ramya/Divya Spandana and Kitty, the original was an ordinary film saved by a fantastic album by Jassie Gift and a brilliant performance from Ramya.

Sadly, the sequel repeats the elements of the original in the worst possible way. Even the songs of *Sanju Weds Geetha 2* failed to make a mark in the run-up to its release.

Sanju Weds Geetha 2 is currently running in theatres

Sanju Weds Geetha 2 (Kannada)
Director: Nagashekar
Cast: Rachita Ram, Srinagara Kitty, Rangayana Raghu, Sadhu Kokila
Runtime: 122 minutes
Storyline: Sanju, a silk weaver with meagre earnings falls in love with Geetha, a girl from an affluent background. When they decide to get married against the wishes of Geetha's father, their relationship faces a huge test.

CITYBEATS

Rangapravesha

JANUARY 26
Jarvinya Saumil Shah will perform her Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha. Trained under Raksha Karthik, Jarvinya will present her dance. Vikram Viswanath, Honorary Consulate of Peru for Karnataka, Goa, and Kerala, will be the chief guest. *At Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts, Kanakapura Road, 9am. Open to all.*

Soft whispers

JANUARY 22
The Crafts Council of Karnataka and MAP, present 'Whispers of the Loom', which is a part of Vishwakarma Vimarsha Series. The event will be a walk through with textile designer and revivalist Gurung Shah. Entry is free, Whatsapp 919620235401 to register. *At the Museum of Art & Photography Auditorium, 4pm.*

Tune in

JANUARY 24, 25
Advaita Crescendo, an ensemble blending Carnatic music with European jazz, will perform this weekend with Suma Sudhindra on the veena, pianist Federica Colangelo Ned McGowan on the flute, percussionist Karthik Mani and bassist Laurent Peckels. *At Windmills, Whitefield, 9.30pm. Call 45217761 for details.*

Pregnant cow's head severed; five taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Uttara Kannada police have taken into custody five people in connection with the severing of the head of a pregnant cow and mutilating its calf in a village in Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district on Sunday.

The police said that Krishna Achari had left his cow and its calf out to graze in Salkodu village. When he returned, he found the severed head and legs of the cow and the mutilated body of the calf.

As many as 10 persons are suspected to be involved in the case. The police have taken five persons to custody. "We will find the accused soon," Inspector-General of Police, Western Range, Amit Singh, told *The Hindu*.

Amid rebellion, BJP core committee favours taking everyone into confidence

The Karnataka State core committee met in the presence of party national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP Karnataka State core committee that met in the presence of party national general secretary and State in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal is learnt to have emphasised the need to take everyone into confidence as part of efforts to resolve internal tussle that has taken centrestage in the party.

Indicating this while briefing media persons after the core committee meeting, C.T. Ravi, MLC, said the party would take measures to strengthen the party organisation by taking everyone into confidence.

When specifically asked about the internal tussle in the party marked by the public attack by rebels, Mr. Ravi refused to divulge the details regarding the issues discussed by the core committee and only said, "Nothing is bigger than the organisation. We will have our existence only if the organisation survives. We have decided to take measures to take everyone into confidence."

BJP leaders at the core committee meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Internal tussle in the BJP has reached a flashpoint with the rebels, led by Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, openly challenging the leadership of party State president B.Y. Vijayendra, and in response to this, the followers of Mr. Vijayendra announcing their plans to visit Delhi to meet the party central leaders to seek expulsion of prominent rebel leaders.

Both camps have been trying to bring pressure on the party leadership to initiate action against their rival. However, the central leadership appears to favouring the approach of taking everyone into confidence.

Mr. Ravi said the core committee had resolved to ask the district units to send the names of three leaders through consensus for being considered for the district president's posts. These names would be forwarded to the Centre for approval, he noted.

The core committee had not yet discussed anything related to the post of party State president as of now, he said. Before the core committee met, Mr. Singh held separate meetings of party legislators and former legislators. Referring to these meetings, party general secretary Preetham Gowda told media persons that the party legislators had sought action from the central leadership to prevent such leaders from indulging in public attacks against the State leadership.

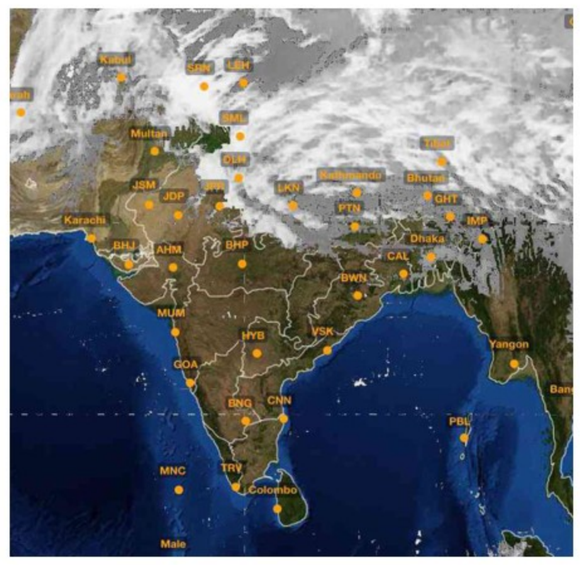
At the meeting of former legislators, in which a large number of supporters of Mr. Vijayendra participated, Mr. Agarwal is learnt to have sternly told them that they too should desist from indulging in public counter attack at the rebel leaders in the interest of party discipline.

Request to be relieved

Meanwhile, BJP State general secretary V. Sunil Kumar confirmed to the media that he had requested to be relieved from the party organisational responsibility as he felt that he was not doing justice to the post. He denied that he was an aspirant for the State president post.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, and west Uttar Pradesh. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.6	12.2	Kozhikode	—	32.2	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	31.2	16.2	Kurnool	—	34.5	17.4
Aizawl	—	27.0	11.8	Lucknow	—	26.6	11.8
Allahabad	—	26.9	14.0	Madurai	—	31.0	20.6
Bengaluru	—	28.4	15.2	Mangaluru	—	33.2	21.9
Bhopal	—	26.8	10.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.8	13.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	14.7
Chandigarh	—	22.0	10.5	New Delhi	—	24.0	10.6
Chennai	—	30.1	22.0	Patna	—	19.4	11.6
Coimbatore	—	30.9	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.0	22.4
Dehradun	—	23.1	9.0	Puducherry	—	29.2	21.0
Gangtok	—	12.4	—	Pune	—	34.0	17.1
Goa	—	34.0	22.0	Raipur	—	31.4	14.6
Guwahati	—	26.1	15.0	Ranchi	—	26.6	13.3
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.4	—
Hyderabad	—	32.7	13.8	Shimla	—	17.7	8.7
Imphal	—	24.7	7.1	Srinagar	—	11.0	1.0
Jaipur	—	26.4	13.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.2	25.7
Kochi	—	32.2	25.0	Tiruchi	—	30.9	20.4
Kohima	—	17.0	10.0	Vijayawada	—	31.3	18.4
Kolkata	—	27.6	13.8	Visakhapatnam	—	31.5	18.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.20	100	11	250	203	
Bengaluru	.23	15	50	107	131	
Chennai	7	9	41	148	116	
Delhi	.32	116	91	332	265	
Hyderabad	9	123	14	150	147	
Kolkata	.13	102	19	218	156	
Lucknow	.10	.45	47	264	189	
Mumbai	8	112	30	127	152	
Pune	—	261	60	199	144	
Visakhapatnam	.10	116	39	262	225	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 418 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Trump inherits best-performing U.S. economy from Biden'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

President Donald Trump is inheriting the strongest and best performing U.S. economy because of a series of measures taken by his predecessor Joe Biden, said Matthew Winkler, co-founder and former editor-in-chief, *Bloomberg News*, in Chennai on Tuesday.

He was speaking on the topic 'Trump and the Global Economy' at the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ). Referring to a *Bloomberg* report titled 'Trump inaugural speech vows 'Golden Age' to reverse decline', Mr. Winkler argued that the U.S. economy was one of the best performing under the Mr. Biden's presidency.

According to him, Mr. Biden's presidency was best in terms of several economic indicators, including GDP, manufacturing jobs, surplus/deficit as a share of GDP, household debt to disposable income, bond market performance relative to the world, non-farm payrolls, home equity, household earnings and performance of the U.S. dollar, when compared to the administrations of his predecessors going back up to Jimmy Carter.

Matthew Winkler, co-founder and former editor-in-chief, *Bloomberg News*, in Chennai on Tuesday. R. RAGU

He said policies such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that provided for a direct stimulus package to individuals and small businesses to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, the CHIPS and Science Act which brought back semiconductor manufacturing companies to the U.S., and a push for electric vehicle manufacturing facilities were remarkable economic measures of Mr. Biden's administration.

He said Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter were also unpopular Presidents, like Mr. Biden, when they left office, but each of them made a significant mark during their tenure. He recalled Marshall Plan by Truman to rebuild the European economies post Second World War, Civil Rights Act of 1964 by Johnson and economic regulations by Carter.

Sashi Kumar, chairman, ACJ, said that under Mr. Winkler's mentorship, the students of ACJ in 2022 had spotted one of the biggest stories of the year on how Adani Enterprises' shares were overvalued, three months before Hindenburg came up with the same analysis.

N. Ram, veteran journalist and Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited, faculty members and students of ACJ, were present.

Hema panel report: SC lauds those who gave statements before SIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday acknowledged the courage of the women who had defied personal and professional costs to lodge complaints of sexual abuse in the Malayalam film industry, but said investigating agencies must also respect the women who wanted to remain silent.

A three-judge Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta appreciated the women survivors and witnesses who opened up before the K. Hema Committee and later made statements before a State-appointed Special Investigation Team, leading to the registration of over 25 First Information Reports.

However, the top court clarified that the SIT could not unilaterally register FIRs in the cases of women who, after making statements before the Hema committee, did not want to pursue the matter or initiate criminal proceedings against their alleged perpetrators.

The court was hearing a petition filed by film producer Sajimon Parayil, who claimed that the Kerala High Court had in October last directed the SIT to register FIRs on each and every statement made by survivors/witnesses to the Hema Committee.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. – 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप—खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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No. 61] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025/PAUSHA 13, 1946

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 03rd January, 2025

S.O 63(E) In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH-275 in the stretch of land from Km. 17.3 to Km. 136.3 in the village(s) namely- Brahmapura, Gananguru, Gowdahalli, K.Shettihalli, Kallikoppalu (B) Taluk- Shrirangapattana and in the village(s) namely- Elechakanahalli, Indavalu, Kiraganduru, Mandya, Sundahalli, Yaliyuru Taluk-Mandya and in the village(s) namely- Gejjalagere Taluk- Maddur in the district of MANDYA in the state of KARNATAKA hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority Mysuru in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH-275 in the stretch of land from Km. 17.3 to Km. 136.3 in the village(s) namely- Brahmapura, Gananguru, Gowdahalli, K.Shettihalli, Kallikoppalu (B) Taluk- Shrirangapattana and in the village(s) namely- Elechakanahalli, Indavalu, Kiraganduru, Mandya, Sundahalli, Yaliyuru Taluk-Mandya and in the village(s) namely- Gejjalagere Taluk-Maddur in the district of MANDYA in the state of KARNATAKA.

[F. No. NHAI/PIU-RMNG/Additional Works safety/NH-275/2021-22/3A1]
ABHAY JAIN, Director

District Mandya
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication date 03-01-2025
https://egazette.gov.in/.....
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https://bhoomirashi.go.in/.....

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- TENDER NOTICE No. 01/MYS/2025 of 15-01-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx Value
1	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur Sub Division:- Provision of additional Standard Height Gauges on approaches of bridges with superstructure of steel girder at RUB No.20, 366, 500, 539 and 577.(Balance work)	Rs. 55,30,026/-
2	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur Sub Division:- Rebuilding of side slope and side drain construction at Land slip at Km.40/300-400 and slope protection works on vulnerable cutting at Km 39/835 - 40/450 between Ballupete and Sakleshpur stations (Phase II).	Rs. 9,46,09,763/-
3	Supply of Alumino thermic welding portions of 52Kg/60Kg/ 60EI-R260 as approved by RDSO and welding in Senior Divisional Engineer/ Central/Mysuru Jurisdiction.	Rs. 45,80,059/-

Last date for submission of bids:Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-02-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/717/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Mysuru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 02/2025 Date: 17-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	30241109A	Wearing Piece for side Bearer on Bolster Suspension	1262 Nos	24.01.2025
2	30241041	Helical Spring (Non-AC) for Axle Box	942 Nos	27.01.2025
3	30241458	Side buffer fixing bolt, nut and washer	34434 Nos	03.02.2025
4	47245004	Traction Power Transformer 21.6/30.24 MVA, 66/27 KV	2 Nos	05.02.2025
5	33241291	Flex Ball Cable - SHORT (L-2333 MM)	102 Nos	06.02.2025
6	33251397	Vertical Carrier Assembly	340 Nos	07.02.2025
7	33241258	Knuckle for C.B.C coupler Body assembly	353 Nos	10.02.2025
8	33241226A	Foot Step Complete	1475 Nos	10.02.2025
9	30251780	Fixing arrangement of stainless steel dust bin assembly	2768 Nos	10.02.2025
10	30241045	Helical spring for bogie bolster suspension	464 Nos	12.02.2025
11	33245009A	Automatic Fire Detection cum Suppression System	25 Nos	17.02.2025
12	75241056	Pre-Laminated shaded compreg to size 2440x1220x3mm	4913 Nos	17.02.2025
13	33241227	Wheel Set Earthing equipment	338 Sets	24.02.2025
14	For Tender No. 60245526 of Notice No.28/2024, Due Date changed from 19.01.2025 to 05.02.2025.			

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/721/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Govt. of Bihar
Rural Works Department
Bihar Rural Roads Development Agency
Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Empanelment of DPR Consultancy Agency forPreparation of DPRs of Long Span Bridges(LSBs) on Rural Roads.
Short Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI)
EoI no.-BRRDA(HQ)-PMGSY-06/2025-207

Expression of Interest is invited from approved & eligible Consulting Agency for preparation of DPRs of Long Span Bridges (LSBs)more than 15 meter in lengthlying on the Rural Roads in Bihar on **the pre-approved categorywise remuneration**.

The Bidding comprising of qualifying information, eligibility criteria and terms of reference of EoI and other details can be downloaded from **http://www.pmgsytendersbih.gov.in** as per schedule of dates given.

Schedule of Dates

01	Date of publishing of EoI	15/01/2025
02	Document download date and time	27/01/2025 from 10:00 AM
04	EoI Submission Start Date/Sale start date and time	27/01/2025 from 03:00 PM
03	Pre EoI Meeting and submission of query in hard copy	29/01/2025 at 12:00 in the Conference Hall VisheswariyaBhawan, Patna-800001
05	EoI Submission closing date and time	07/02/2025(03:00 PM)
06	Date and Time of opening of EoI	07/02/2025 at 03:30 PM

3. EoI processing cost of Rs. 10000/- (Non-Refundable) and EoI Security cost of Rs. 200000/-will be submitted online (PMGSY e-tender online Account-through PMGSY e-tender portal by Internet Banking only). All concerned please note that the process will not move onward if the EoI Document's Cost (Tender Fee) and EoI Security cost is not paid through PMGSY e-tender portal by Internet Banking. No other form of EoI Document cost and EoI Security cost will be accepted.

The consultants are required to submit the following document in original at the time of signing of contract agreement in the office of the Secretary BRRDA.

(a) Affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with EoI document as per provisions.

(b) Self-attested EoI id sheet generated (Acknowledgement Slip) when the EoI is successfully submitted by the consultant. Original documents must match the scanned copies submitted along with the EoI submitted on line.

In case, of any discrepancy in this respect, it will be treated as misrepresentation by the consultant. Such consultant shall be liable to be debarred for participating in bids for five years.

4. Details of tender related information can be viewed/ downloaded from the website http://pmgsytendersbih.gov.in. Interested Bidders will have to register with their DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) in the web site http://pmgsytendersbih.gov.in.

For further details please visit website **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR- 17411 (R W D) 2024-25
Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Additional Commissioner-cum-Special Secretary, RWD, Bihar, Patna
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum Tender Notice No. 51/2024 Dated: 19-12-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No	Description in Brief	Existing Date	Changed to Last Date of Submission/ Tender Due on
L8246275B	Supply,Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Test Rig for testing of Valves of E-70 Brake Equipment Qty- 01 No.	17-01-2025 10:30 Hrs	31-01-2025 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/719/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

MSME Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
(Government of India Autonomous body)
CFTI, 65/1, GST Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
ORGANIZES TRAINING ON
GOLD APPRAISAL
Date: 25th & 26th Jan 2025 Time: 10 am - 5 pm
Contents: Gold Purity, To identify the gold qualities, Basic Metallurgy of Gold, Soldering, Fake Jewellery Identification, Net Weight calculation, job opportunities in Banks & finance companies, start your Jewellery shop
Who can attend : Gold-related business people, Jewellery Shop Owners, Job seekers, Interested Candidates, Gold Appraiser aspirant.
FEES : Rs.10000/- (Including 18% GST) (Lunch & Snacks Provide)
Fees to be paid through online
A/C No: 0495073000001335
IFSC Code :SIBL0000495
DIRECTOR, MSME TDC
VENUE : HOTEL ABHIMAANI VASATHI
Dr. Rajkumar Road, Udayam Nagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru
Email: admission@cftichennai.in
Scan QR Code for Registration
CONTACT : 9760547805 / 9677943633
Govt. of India Certificate will be awarded

Inaugural drama

Donald Trump is living up to his threats and promises

Republican Donald Trump has been sworn in as the 47th President of the U.S. after his decisive victory in the November 2024 election. He marked the start of his second innings with a slew of executive orders, actions and directives that set the tenor for his administration's policy agenda over the four years. Significant among these are the nearly 1,600 pardons issued to those prosecuted for their role in the riot at the U.S. Capitol in 2021, the U.S.'s exit from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization, the ending of birthright citizenship, protected under the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, for children of undocumented migrants and those on temporary visas, a proposed 100% tariff on BRICS nations – both of which could impact Indians considerably – and 25% tariff on Canada and Mexico from February 1, a declaration of national emergency on the U.S.'s southern border with Mexico, and reversing 78 executive orders and memoranda of his predecessor, Joe Biden. Striking optics of Mr. Trump's swearing-in was the positioning of tech bosses Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Sundar Pichai, and Mark Zuckerberg, prompting speculation on whether the incoming administration would have shades of a de facto "oligarchy"; and Mr. Musk, who is heading the new government's efforts to reduce waste and inefficiencies, giving a crowd what appeared to resemble a Nazi salute. As it stands, however, some, if not most, of these executive orders will face legal challenges – the attempted reading down of the 14th Amendment has already been challenged in court.

The note that the second Trump administration has struck in terms of its policy agenda appears to be innately hostile to the progressive agenda of the Democrats. To a considerable extent, that is to be expected, as the two parties diverge significantly on matters such as the economy, immigration and reproductive rights. Yet, previous Republican governments have often sought to build bridges with Democratic colleagues in Congress and at the State level, to find bipartisan consensus in key policy areas rather than risk deadlock and internecine conflicts over policy design and resource allocation. In this instance, however, the federal government trifecta and a sympathetic Supreme Court stacked with conservatives might mean that the Trump team needs to rely even less on support from across the aisle than it did during the Trump first term. Further, Mr. Trump appears to be emboldened by the breadth of his election victory to allow unconventional, even bizarre, policy priorities to enter the proposed agenda, including ideas such as the takeover of the Panama Canal, the de-recognition of transgender rights, threatening Denmark with a plan to takeover Greenland, and the prospect of travel bans for certain countries. Perhaps America is getting what it voted for.

The price of success

Kerala's rising maternal mortality ratio is not yet a cause for concern

There can be too much of a good thing, after all. The demographic transition that Kerala has heralded in the country has now delivered a sucker punch to the State, with its maternal mortality ratio climbing. Kerala led the shift to the phase of low fertility and low mortality in India, and got further, first. As the fertility level dropped, the number of births came down, thereby skewering the best maternal mortality rate (calculated as the number of deaths for every 1,00,000 live births) of the country, in Kerala. The State led the demographic transition by achieving the total replacement level fertility rate in 1987-88, and the other southern States followed in the mid-2000s. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level, indicating the number of children a woman must have in order for the society to maintain its size across generations. Below this level the population size falls. In fact, this has led to moments of anxiety, politically for the southern States that feel that with their sub-replacement level fertility rates, they will be at a disadvantage when it comes to the proposed delimitation exercise of Lok Sabha seats based on population figures. In theory, demographic transition occurs when a historical shift happens from high birth rates and high death rates to low birth and death rates, aided by advancements in education, economic development and technology. Such a transition is said to have occurred in most parts of the world, allowing the world to stabilise from the unprecedented growth forecast by Malthus, and then move on to reduce population growth, and birth rates. The theory posits four stages - moving from stable population to a rapid population growth, levelling out and finally, a decline.

Nations that have reached there, including South Korea, are struggling to revive population growth, and even incentivising childbearing does not seem to have the intended effect, as the fertility rate continues to drop. While it is impossible to stop a demographic transition in its tracks, governments must prepare for the trail of consequences that it will bring in its wake. There will be far-reaching economic and societal consequences as the proportion of the working-age population comes down and the aged population increases, placing an inordinate burden on the resources of nations. It is, therefore, important to strengthen public finances and social support systems in preparation for a growing elderly population. Health-care financing will have to be improved, and policies that support equal participation in household chores must be prioritised.

Time to seize the promise of the U.S.-India nuclear deal

Raymond E. Vickery, Jr.

is a Senior Associate (Non-resident) at the Chair on India and Emerging Asia Economics, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington, DC. He also worked with the Coalition for Partnership with India on the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Initiative. He previously served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development, where he launched the U.S.-India Commercial Alliance

Sixteen years ago, this writer and other organisers of the Coalition for Partnership with India rejoiced at the final approval of the United States-India civil nuclear deal through the U.S. Congress. The long struggle for passage of the necessary U.S. legislation began in 2005, and it was only in late 2008 that the Coalition succeeded in working with the George W. Bush administration and U.S. Congressional leaders to make the deal legal under U.S. law.

The Coalition for Partnership with India was a loose association of businesses, Indian-Americans, and academics that supported U.S. approval of the deal in the face of fierce opposition that stipulated that the deal would promote the proliferation of nuclear weapons. As a consultant to the U.S.-India Business Council, this writer was privileged to recruit and act as a liaison among Coalition components, plan strategy, and advocate before the Congress.

A game-changing deal

The U.S.-India civil nuclear deal was a watershed moment and opened a whole new era in defence and strategic cooperation for the two democracies that had become estranged during the Cold War. Without the trust engendered by the willingness to cooperate in dealing with the most powerful and potentially most destructive technology ever seen, the present level of U.S.-India interaction on defence purchases and manufacturing, military exercises, technology transfer, intelligence sharing, and crisis management would never have occurred.

And yet, the energy and commercial promises of the U.S.-India deal have never been fulfilled. Those of us who supported and advocated for the deal envisaged the augmentation of the Indian civil nuclear sector with many plants being built using U.S. equipment, technology, and allied services. Employment would be created both in the U.S. and India. More electricity would be generated by plants to fuel Indian industry and benefit the average Indian. This energy would not generate greenhouse gases and help wean India away from an over-reliance on climate changing, and often toxic, fossil fuels. Even though U.S. President Barack Obama announced in 2016 that Westinghouse would build six new nuclear plants in India, this has not happened yet.

Jake Sullivan, in his last trip to India as U.S. President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser, announced, "... the United States is now finalizing the necessary steps to remove long-standing regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear entities and U.S. companies." Will this development be the mechanism that breaks the logjam that has prevented the U.S.-India deal from fulfilling its true potential? If only it were so simple.

> There are major challenges that limit the full fruition of the deal, but the Trump administration can iron them out

At the conclusion of the civil nuclear deal in 2008, there were approximately 200 Indian entities on the so-called "Entity List" kept by the U.S. Department of Commerce. In general terms, U.S. companies are prohibited from doing business with companies on this list unless a special licence is granted. In practice, such licences are seldom granted. After the U.S.-India civil nuclear deal, all but a handful of Indian companies dealing with nuclear matters were removed from the list. This was one of the benefits of the deal. Among those remaining, were those that were mainly involved in research and development and thought to involve the risk of nuclear technology leakage into military uses and other security issues, including leakage to Russia and other adversaries of the U.S. Mr. Sullivan, in his speech in New Delhi, made oblique reference to this concern when he said, "As we see more and more new technologies diverted to unfriendly actors, the United States and India will also need to ensure that valuable dual-use technologies don't fall into the wrong hands. This means aligning our export control systems...."

Apparently, the Biden Administration decided that the few remaining Indian nuclear entities on the U.S. Entity list no longer present the kind of security concerns that landed them on that list in the first place. This is all well and good and can be considered progress, although it remains to be seen whether the security and foreign policy agencies under Mr. Trump will agree with that assessment. However, this is not the heart of the problem preventing the U.S.-India civil nuclear deal from reaching its full potential.

The liability risk issue

In 2010, India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act. This Act was fuelled in Parliament by those who had lost the attempt to block the deal and their anti-foreigner rhetoric, including invocation of the infamous Bhopal/Union Carbide tragedy. The result was India departing from international civil nuclear liability norms and placing major liability obligations not on the operators of a civil nuclear facility but on the suppliers. Neither of the major U.S. suppliers – GE and Westinghouse – was willing to assume these liability risks, and neither the U.S. nor India was willing at that time to step in to ameliorate these liability concerns.

The Indian Government did attempt later to provide some relief from liability risks in conjunction with the resumption of Russian participation in the Indian civil nuclear expansion. Through India's public sector General Insurance Corporation, and four other government companies, a 20-year insurance premium would be charged to cover the supplier's liability for an accident. The Russians accepted this risk amelioration in large part because their overseas civil nuclear entities are government owned, will have a defence of sovereign immunity, and in any case will be protected by the Russian government from liability that might otherwise put them out of business. And the Russians saw their increased participation in Indian civil nuclear development as bearing significant geopolitical dividends. The Russians are now moving forward with India on civil nuclear expansion. The U.S. companies have been unwilling so far to accept this insurance amelioration. Thus, the Trump administration will have to find means to cut the Gordian knot of liability before there will be significant U.S. company involvement in Indian civil nuclear expansion.

Hurdles such as technology, consumer costs

There are other significant barriers to the full involvement of U.S. companies in Indian civil nuclear expansion that have arisen since the 2008 conclusion of the U.S.-India civil nuclear deal. Civil nuclear technology has evolved rapidly. For U.S. companies to be fully involved, they must show that they can offer the latest technology. Most importantly, this technology and its implementing equipment must be offered at a reasonable price that will not increase electricity costs to the Indian consumer. Indian civil nuclear officials are acutely aware of the disastrous cost overruns that have doomed the latest civil nuclear facilities in the U.S. and left ratepayers to shoulder unwelcome costs without improvements in either quantity or quality of services.

All these challenges limit the full fruition of the U.S.-India civil nuclear deal. But they cannot be met by U.S. companies acting alone. The Trump administration can work with Indian and U.S. nuclear companies not just on regulatory issues but also those involving liability, technology, and cost as well. The hour is late, but the benefits to seizing the full promise of the U.S.-India civil nuclear deal will be tremendous.

Trump 2.0 as disruptor of the global legal order

Prabhash Ranjan

is Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Rahul Mohanty

is an Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Law School

Donald Trump's second term as President of the United States marks the start of a new 'Trumpian' era, defined by his leadership. Foreign policy experts expect that Mr. Trump will continue to embody the image of a disruptor. The international legal order is expected to experience substantial changes.

As the leading global power of our time, the U.S. has always maintained a complicated relationship with international law. The U.S. has played a vital role in establishing many key institutions and frameworks within international law, as well as in shaping their norms, priorities and agendas to align with American interests. This influence is evident across various areas of international law, including climate change law, space law, human rights law, and trade and investment law. At the same time, America has often followed a policy of exceptionalism, i.e., an attitude of being 'distinct' and thus an 'exception' to the law that binds all other nations. Thus, the U.S. has been criticised for violating or sidelining the same norms and institutions of international law that it helped create and expects other countries to follow.

The Trump 1.0 years

While this has been the case for many American presidencies, the Trump Presidency took it to a completely different level, almost waging a war on international law. Elected with the slogan of "America First", Mr. Trump's first term reflected what international law scholars Oona Hathaway and Scott Shapiro call a 'sovereigntist view of international law' which often misconceives entering into multilateral treaties as putting unacceptable limits on sovereign authority. Mr. Trump's first term was marked by scepticism towards multilateralism and a preference for bilateralism, which is usually the case of emerging revisionist powers but strange for the incumbent superpower.

Accordingly, the Trump administration, in June 2017, famously walked away from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Washington also reneged on a key nuclear treaty with Russia and a nuclear deal with Iran. Mr. Trump also posed major challenges to the international trade regime by using tariffs and other protectionist measures, including against allied countries.

> President Donald Trump's renewed majority and control over the U.S. Senate and the House are likely to help him push forward his policies more effectively

He continued blocking appointments into the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Dispute Settlement Body's Appellate Body, which ultimately led to the organ becoming dysfunctional. Under his presidency, the U.S. withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that the Obama administration had so assiduously crafted and put an end to the North American Free Trade Agreement or NAFTA and negotiating a new trade agreement. Additionally, during the Trump first term, the U.S. withdrew from several international institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), attempted to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), and threatened withdrawal from the WTO.

Another onslaught

Mr. Trump's return to the White House could accelerate the weakening of the normative authority of multilateral institutions. While the U.S. rejoined many of the multilateral institutions under the Biden administration, it might again disengage from them. In fact, within hours of his inauguration, he reportedly signed executive orders initiating the U.S.'s withdrawal from WHO and the Paris Agreement. Mr. Trump has announced fresh plans to pursue unilateralism by raising tariffs, even if it triggers a trade war and violates WTO rules.

He has already announced that he may impose a 25% tariff on imports from Mexico and Canada. His belligerent onslaught on the Washington Consensus-based international trade and investment law model will continue unabated. Any hopes of the Global South of reviving the WTO's dysfunctional Appellate Body should be abandoned. While some hoped that Mr. Trump's policies may translate into renewed U.S. isolationism and less interventionism, his recent statements belie such hopes.

His plans to annex Greenland and the Panama Canal, refusing to rule out coercive methods to do so, and include Canada as the 51st State of the U.S., are reminiscent of the 18th-19th century era of great powers acquiring sovereign territories through conquest and gunboat diplomacy. In the post-UN charter era, which considers the prohibition of using force and self-determination as central tenets, such ambitions may embolden other revisionist states such as China and Russia to embark on similar quests for obtaining territory.

As scholars such as Marko Milanović have pointed out, even if Mr. Trump ultimately does not use force, these statements potentially violate the norm of non-intervention under Article 2(7) of the UN Charter, further challenging the international order. The statements made by his allies, such as Elon Musk (who is part of the Trump administration), commenting on the internal politics and laws of allied countries such as the United Kingdom and Germany, have also irked many and could be construed as unacceptable intervention.

Other nations and the legal order

International lawyer Harold Koh has pointed out that the participants involved in the 'transnational legal process', including many officials within the U.S. itself, were able to blunt many of Mr. Trump's policies in his first term, particularly those affecting international law. However, with Mr. Trump's renewed majority and control over both the Senate and the House, it is more likely that he will be able to push forward his policies more effectively. In that case, other countries must cooperate to preserve the international legal order.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump again

With Donald Trump sworn-in as the 47th President of the United States, one hopes that he ushers in an era of peaceful coexistence.

I wish someone would explain to Mr. Trump the meaning of "*Maithreem Bhajatha*" that M.S. Subbulakshmi sang in the UN General Assembly in 1966, which became an anthem for universal friendship and world peace.

V.P. Dhananjayan,
Chennai

Cases and verdicts

The two verdicts in two high-profile crimes are cause for discussion. In Kerala, a woman who poisoned a man she was in a relationship with, has been awarded the death sentence while the rapist-murderer in the Kolkata hospital case has been awarded life imprisonment. Both come under the rarest of rare cases and the Kolkata case verdict is questionable.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

On cow urine

I write this letter as a former Director of Research and Health, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. Cow urine may have molecules with 'anti-infective' properties, but to almost recommend the consumption of voided urine is quite harmful as it can be a source of pathogens such as leptospires and E. Coli, when a cow harbours such pathogens ("Research papers validate anti-infective properties of cow urine: IIT-M Director", January 21).

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

One is left shell shocked by the Director's statements, which point to the extent to which fake beliefs can numb even brilliant minds.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

As the director of a premier engineering and research institution in the world, the gentleman should be more thoughtful when such views are stated.

Such fringe views, though few and far between, should not be given prominence as they show the medical and scientific community in a bad light. India should not be distracted by myths and scientifically unsustainable claims.

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

The last sentence of a report, "Queen Sembiyan was the real founder of the Chola Empire, says Kanisetti" (Main editions, 'Lit for Life' page, January 20, 2025), should have read: "... from historical records that no previous Chola royals *patronised as many temples as* the late queen Sembiyan Mahadevi across Tamil Nadu."

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

The world has been changing for a while

Peter Frankopan
Professor of Global History at Oxford University

One of the things one learns as a historian – and as a traveller – is that places change. I was in Chennai for the wonderful Lit for Life festival alongside a host of stellar thinkers and speakers and marvelled at the transformation of the city. I do not mean the airport that has been upgraded since I last came to Tamil Nadu, or the infrastructure that is changing daily life for Chennai's inhabitants, but something more fundamental.

Environmental change

In 2019, Chennai declared 'Day Zero', when water ran out. Many recognised that water management needed to be overhauled; some questioned the viability of a city that was unable to meet such basic needs. Five years on, the story could not have been more different: unseasonal and catastrophic storms and torrential rains left the city inundated. People were driven out of their homes not because of too little water, but too much.

We are living through a major environmental reorganisation and we can learn from previous episodes of disruption and change. The difficulty, as shown so clearly by the case of Chennai, is that it is not enough to prepare for droughts or for deluges, but to prepare for both.

Such lessons are particularly important today because of the scale of the climatic shifts that are taking place: no human has ever lived in such a warm world, nor one with such high concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Half of all fossil fuels have been burned by humans since Sachin Tendulkar made his Test debut for India. That does not feel so very long ago to me.

Environmental change is all the more challenging because it is just one of a set of revolutions that are transforming the world around us. New technologies are giving us new powers to communicate and share with each other, but also to rile, antagonise and threaten, helping polarise political discussion.

The return of Trump

Ironically, while political leaders in some countries may think they are giving people what they want, the evidence suggests otherwise: in 2024, more people cast their votes at the ballot box around the world than in any year in history. While each country has its own story, one common trend was that political parties that were in power either found it almost impossible to remain in office and were voted out, or had their majorities sharply reduced.

There are many explanations as to why. But the most persuasive would seem to be that voters can see the world changing in front of their eyes and are hungry for ideas of how to best embrace the opportunities and how to cope with the disruptions of the modern age. That is best summed up by the return of Donald Trump to power, something that has been accompanied by question marks not just about the role of the U.S. in global affairs, but of its long-term role as a stabilising force. Mr. Trump's well-publicised comments about buying Greenland, taking the Panama Canal, or using 'economic force' to compel Canada to join the U.S. can perhaps be taken with a pinch of salt. But India's ever-astute Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar is right to note that Mr. Trump's return to the White House may have "profound consequences for the global order." Indeed, added Mr. Jaishankar, "we may well be on the cusp of a new era."

Just look, then, at the case of TikTok. On Sunday, it began to shut down following outgoing President Joe Biden's decision that the Chinese company posed a threat to U.S. national security. With Mr. Trump's anti-China rhetoric, one might have expected this to be confirmed. Instead, he intervened to keep the company alive, at least for now.

That fits exactly within Mr. Trump's sweet spot of being pragmatic and open to business – though it also shows his opportunism: Tik Tok would make a nice 'thank you' present for Elon Musk for his crucial support during the election, one that has the further advantage of keeping Mr. Musk busy. That Mr. Trump rode in to save a Chinese business, rather than destroy it, is instructive about how he thinks.

The road ahead for India

As for India, things look more complicated. The world looks different from when we saw the 'Howdy Modi' and 'Namaste Trump' events of 2019 and 2020. For one, it will be harder for Delhi to play the game of multiple alignments of being a leading part of both BRICS and the Quad, of getting oil from sanctioned entities, of buying U.S.-made Apache helicopters but also Russian S-400 air defence systems. India has made a virtue of trying to keep all options open. That will come under pressure in the next four years as Mr. Trump is the sort of leader who does not want his friends to have other friends.

The winds of change are blowing, in other words. Mr. Trump took office hours after the first proper breakthrough in West Asia, with many hoping that the devastation of Palestine is finally now over. He faces an Iran that is weaker and more exposed than perhaps at any time in the last 40 years, a Russia that has enfeebled itself economically, culturally and militarily through the invasion of Ukraine, and a China whose outlook on global affairs has moved substantially in the last decade. Of all of Mr. Trump's qualities, the most important is that he is lucky with his timing.

If you ask a historian, we are not so much on the cusp of a new era but have been in one for some time. And that, of course, is what change is all about – invisible, unnoticed and unremarkable. Luckily, historians can tell you a thing or two about that.

We are not so much on the cusp of a new era but have been in one for some time. And that is what change is all about — invisible, unnoticed and unremarkable

A sweet win for turmeric farmers

The National Turmeric Board needs adequate funds to fulfil its objective

STATE OF PLAY

Ravi Reddy
ravi.reddy@thehindu.co.in

This year's Sankranti was particularly sweet for the turmeric farmers in Telangana as their nearly two decade-long demand for a National Turmeric Board (NTB), headquartered in Nizamabad, became a reality when Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated it on the day of the festival. Turmeric is widely cultivated in Nizamabad and parts of north Telangana along the Godavari river.

Mr. Goyal said the Board would boost exports of about 30 varieties of turmeric grown in 20 States, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya. The Board has been entrusted with the task of promoting research and development of new products and exploring the scope for value addition to turmeric-related products for markets abroad. There are plans to leverage the medicinal value of turmeric extensively.

According to the Union government, in 2023-24, 3.05 lakh hectares were under turmeric cultivation in India, which produced 10.74 lakh tonnes of the crop. India accounts for 70% of global turmeric production with Telangana playing a key role in cultivation. In 2023-24, 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric and turmeric products valued at $226.5 million were exported.

The demand for a Board began in 2006. The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, an organisation for the welfare of the farmers, asked for remunerative prices for turmeric and highlighted the need for an exclusive Board for the crop. According to Kotapati Narasimham Naidu, founder-president of the Telangana Turmeric Farmers Association, the then Chief Minister, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, responded positively to the demand and ensured that a Turmeric Research Station was established in 2007 at Kammarpally.

Turmeric farmers, who have seen highs and lows in crop production, continued to demand a Turmeric Board along the lines of the Spices Board, Tobacco Board, and Silk Board. They contended that it would bring in innovative farming technologies, add value to the crop, boost production, and improve remuneration for the crop.

The issue took a political turn in the 2019 general elections. The BJP candidate from the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency, Dharmapuri Arvind, a political debutant, signed a judicial bond paper saying he would quit as MP within days of winning if he was unable to get the Board established. This caught the attention of the electorate. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) candidate, K. Kavitha, daughter of the former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, faced a humiliating defeat from the constituency.

The BJP MP dragged on the issue, however. When the Centre announced a regional office of the National Spices Board, farmers were furious. A month before the Telangana Assembly elections in 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Board would be set up. A gazette was issued on October 5, 2023, announcing this, but it did not mention where the Board would be headquartered. This again led to another round of war of words between political parties. During the 2024 general elections, the Congress, the BJP, and the BRS argued about the failed promise.

The sudden announcement of the National Turmeric Board with its headquarters in Nizamabad has given the BJP a shot in the arm. But the Congress too tried to stake its claim in the development with its leaders calling for comprehensive support to farmers including a robust marketing system, godowns, cold storage facilities, and an assured minimum support price (MSP).

While the establishment of the Board is a watershed moment for the farmers in Nizamabad district, a lot needs to done for its effective functioning. The first demand is a MSP for turmeric. Farmers have been worried that prices keep fluctuating. Last year, turmeric was sold in the Nizamabad agriculture market between ₹15,000 and ₹18,000 per quintal. Now, it is priced at ₹10,000 per quintal.

Putting in place robust infrastructure such as buildings for the Board, and training, research and development centres are the need of the hour. Farmers believe that the Research Centre at Kammarpally can be brought under the purview of the Board.

The purpose of the Board will be served only when there is decent budgetary allocation to meet all the needs. In the initial period, the Board needs to be closely monitored and given adequate funds so that the farmers' dreams are fulfilled.

Undocumented migrants in U.S.: vital workforce, low criminality

Nearly 80% of undocumented migrants currently in the U.S. have lived there for over a decade

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

United States President Donald Trump introduced sweeping changes immediately after being sworn in, which could have a lasting impact on millions of undocumented migrants in the U.S. and the hundreds of thousands of people seeking entry at the country's borders. Mr. Trump pledged to "deport millions and millions of criminal aliens," referring to undocumented migrants living in the country.

While Mr. Trump has frequently claimed that former President Joe Biden allowed 15-20 million illegal immigrants into the country, official figures estimate that there are around 11 million **(Chart 1)**. Other estimates suggest that there are 13-14 million illegal immigrants. But none of these comes close to Mr. Trump's assertions. Around 2.1 lakh Indians were included in these estimates (as of 2022).

Nearly 80% of the estimated 11 million undocumented migrants currently in the U.S. arrived before 2010. **Chart 2** shows that 1.5 million of them entered decades ago, between 1980 and 1990.

Reports state that Mr. Trump has also dismissed top immigration court officials who are responsible for deciding who gets asylum and who does not. There are more than 3 million cases pending in immigration courts. In addition, Mr. Trump has shut down the mobile app CBP One, the sole platform for requesting asylum in the U.S.

Chart 3 shows that in just over a year, the backlog in immigration courts increased from 2.4 million to 3.5 million (Q4 of 2023-Q4 of 2024). Notably, the number of Indians attempting to enter the U.S. illegally has surged in recent years. A decade ago, U.S. border authorities stopped more than 1,500 Indian illegal migrants. This figure rose sharply to 96,917 in 2023 and 90,415 in 2024. There was a similar spike seen among Indians seeking asylum in the U.S.

Moreover, a Bill passed by the Senate empowers officials to detain and even deport undocumented migrants who are arrested for or charged with even non-violent petty crimes such as shoplifting. Mr. Trump has blamed migrants for fuelling violent crime in the country. But data show that the violent offending rate of undocumented migrants is significantly lower than that of U.S.-born citizens. The rate measures the frequency of criminal offenses committed by a specific population.

Chart 4 presents the rate of violent crimes committed in Texas between 2012 and 2018 by U.S.-born citizens, documented immigrants, and undocumented immigrants. The rate of violent crimes committed by undocumented migrants was half than that those committed by U.S.-born citizens and significantly lower than those done by documented immigrants.

A significant majority of undocumented migrants contribute to the U.S. workforce, particularly in construction and agriculture. With discussions of mass deportations gaining momentum, business owners in these sectors are increasingly concerned about finding viable alternatives.

A 2018 study by the Centre for Migration Studies of New York estimated that 5.5 million undocumented migrants are part of the U.S. workforce **(Chart 5)**. If deported en masse, the most immediate impact would be felt on construction sites, in farms, and in restaurants. Essential services such as landscaping, laundry, auto repair, and safety and sanitation would also face severe disruptions.

The recent changes aim to deport undocumented migrants without a clear understanding of their numbers. Many have lived in the U.S. for decades, contribute significantly to essential services, and lead lives with relatively lower levels of criminal activity.

Illegal, yet indispensable

The data for Charts 1 and 2 were from the Office of Homeland Security Statistics, for chart 3 from the Congressional research service, for Chart 4 from a report by the National Institute of Justice, a U.S. government agency, published on September 12, 2024, and Chart 5 from the Centre for Migration Studies of New York

Futile wait: Migrants seeking asylum from Mexico, India and Ecuador waiting to be apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers after crossing over a section of border wall into the U.S. in Arizona. AFP

Chart 1: Estimates of illegal immigrants in the U.S. according to the Dept. of Homeland Security

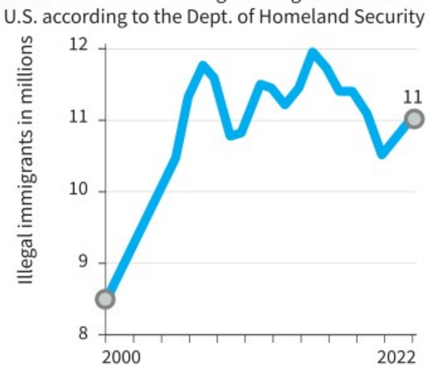


Chart 2: The chart shows the current illegal immigrant population estimates across various periods of entries

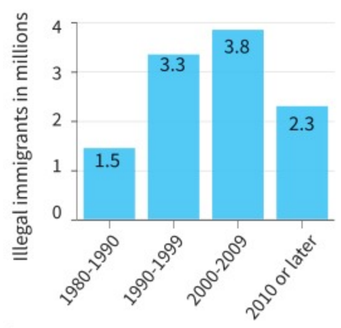


Chart 3: The chart shows the number of backlogged cases in immigration courts between Q2 of FY23 to Q4 of FY24

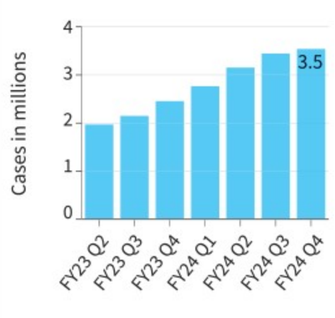


Chart 4: Rate of violent crimes committed in Texas between 2012 and 2018 by various groups

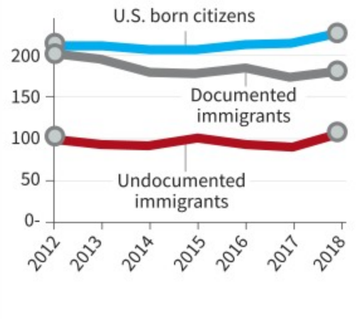
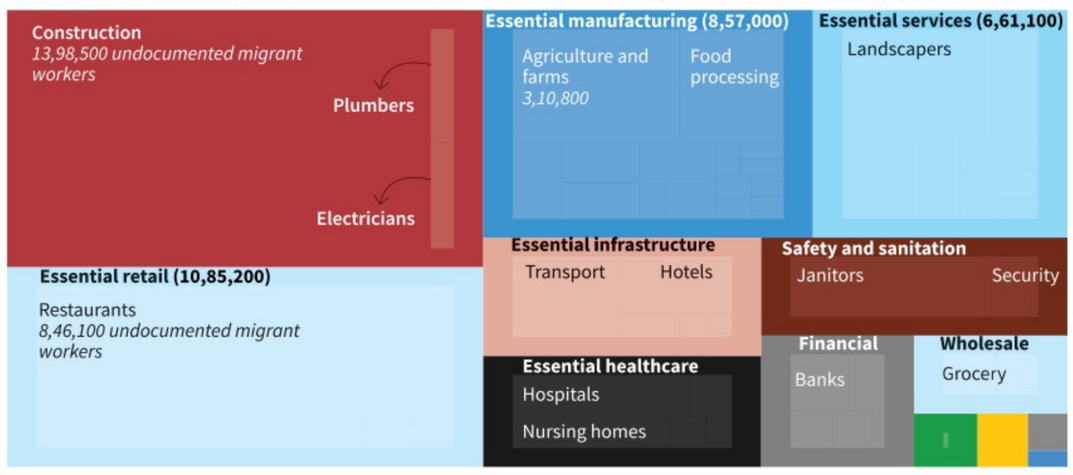


Chart 5: Chart shows the sectors in which the 5.5 million undocumented migrants worked as of 2018. Figures are estimates



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1975

Chou predicts third World War

Peking, Jan. 21: The Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, has predicted that Soviet-American rivalry is bound to lead to a third world war.

He made his statement about the prospect for world peace in a report to the just-concluded fourth National People's Congress.

"The United States and the Soviet Union are the biggest international oppressors and exploiters to-day, and they are the source of a new world war," he said. "Their fierce contention is bound to lead to world war some day," he said.

Mr. Chou, reading a report on the work of the Government, summed up China's economic and political progress in the 10 years since the last Congress and outlined its plans until the end of the century.

While his summary of the internal situation was confident, the report was pessimistic about the chances for world peace.

"The present international situation is still characterised by great disorder under heaven – a disorder which is growing greater and greater," he said before pinpointing the U.S.-Soviet rivalry as the great danger to peace.

Mr. Chou said the focal point of the rivalry between the super powers was Europe, and the Soviet Union makes a "fient to the east while attacking in the west."

He accused the Soviet Union of having – in recent years – taken "a series of steps to worsen relations between the two countries." "The negotiations on the Sino-Soviet boundary issue have so far yielded no results," he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1925

The Madras Council Library

The Madras Council Library which was opened two years ago for the benefit of members of Council and the Gazetted Officers of the Secretariat contains books on politics, history, economics, constitution, etc. and is considered to a most up-to-date library in Madras in the matter of books on Constitution and Parliamentary procedure. The Library gets the Madras Dailies, the *Round Table*, the *Edinburgh Review,* the *Times Literary Supplement,* etc. The total number of books is at present 2,500 as compared with 1,500 in the previous year. A Librarian is available to members of Council between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on working days.

From Page One

Trump declares end to birthright citizenship

The Quad Foreign Ministers are expected to discuss dates for the Quad Summit to be held in India later this year, while during the bilateral meeting Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Rubio would discuss Mr. Trump's visit to India and taking forward the strategic partnership, as well as the concerns over immigration and tariffs.

Mr. Rubio will meet State Department employees and then hold talks with all Quad Foreign Ministers. The meeting of the Indo-Pacific grouping, that China has criticised, is significant as it is Mr. Rubio's first foreign policy engagement.

On Monday, Mr. Jaishankar was accorded a front-row aisle seat right in front of the podium where Mr. Trump took oath.

Mr. Rubio's decision to meet the Quad Foreign Ministers first is also important as it comes amid Mr. Trump's own outreach to China, including an invitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping for the inaugural ceremony on Monday, which Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng attended.

Mr. Rubio, known for his tough views on China, has been banned from travelling there and was sanctioned twice by Beijing over his comments criticising Chinese human rights violations.
(With inputs from Reuters)

Trump pardons Jan. 6 Capitol riot convicts

The pardons are a culmination of Mr. Trump's years-long campaign to rewrite the history of the Capitol attack, which left more than 100 police officers injured as the angry mob of Trump supporters – some armed with poles, bats and bear spray – overwhelmed law enforcement, shattered windows and sent lawmakers running into hiding.

While pardons were expected, the speed and the scope of the clemency amounted to a stunning dismantling of the Justice Department's effort to hold participants accountable over what has been described as one of the darkest days in the country's history. Mr. Trump also ordered the Attorney-General to seek the dismissal of roughly 450 cases that are pending before judges.

Casting the rioters as "patriots" and "hostages," Mr. Trump has claimed they were unfairly treated by the Justice Department, which also charged him with federal crimes in two cases he contends were politically motivated. Mr. Trump said the pardons will end "a grave national injustice that has been perpetrated upon the American people" and begin "a process of national reconciliation."

At least 14 Maoists killed in Gariabad encounter

"Strengthening the resolve of the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Honourable Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to end Maoism in the country and State by March 2026, the security forces are continuously achieving success and moving rapidly towards the target. This success achieved by the soldiers is commendable. I salute their bravery. Under our double engine government, Chhattisgarh will definitely be free from Maoism by March 2026," Mr. Sai posted on X.

The latest encounter takes the number of Maoists killed by security forces so far this year to 40. At least 12 Maoists were killed in an encounter in Bijapur on January 16. Later, however, the police added that the Maoists themselves had issued a press release saying 18 Maoists had been killed in the said encounter.

Anti-Maoists operations which have intensified in Chhattisgarh since late 2023 saw 219 Maoists getting killed in 2024. While the operations were concentrated in Bastar, the hotbed of left-wing extremism in the State and the country, there have been two operations in Gariaband in the past fortnight.

Kerala Assembly calls for fresh UGC norms

The document criticises the Draft UGC Regulations, 2025, for excluding State governments from key decisions, particularly the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and setting of qualifications and service conditions for faculty members.

It asserts that the power to establish and supervise universities rests with the State governments, as per the Constitution's Seventh Schedule. Referring to the 42nd Constitutional Amendment of 1977, the resolution also emphasises that the Centre's role should be limited to coordinating and setting standards for higher education.

Such guidelines, the resolution argues, undermine the democratic functioning of universities and give undue influence to central authorities, thereby sidelining the role of States, which contribute around 80% of the funding for higher education institutions.

The resolution also highlights the objectionable provisions in the guidelines that propose appointing Vice-Chancellors from the private sector, even potentially from commercial backgrounds, instead of prioritising academic expertise within universities. This, it cautions, could lead to the commercialisation of higher education.

Bengal moves HC seeking death penalty for convict

The move comes after Mamata Banerjee expressed shock at the life sentence verdict for convict in R.G. Kar rape-murder case, arguing that it does not adequately reflect the severity of the crime

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A day after a sessions court in Kolkata handed a life term to the convict in the rape-murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College, the West Bengal government on Tuesday moved the Calcutta High Court to file an appeal seeking the death penalty for the convict.

Advocate-General Kishor Datta moved a Division Bench of Justices Debangsu Basak and Mohammad Shabbar Rashidi on Tuesday, seeking the court's permission to file the appeal challenging the order passed by the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sealdah, Anirban Das.

The move comes after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had expressed her disapproval of the sessions court's sentence.

Charged rally: Demonstrators gather outside the Sealdah court during the hearing of the R.G. Kar case in Kolkata on Monday. ANI

'Primitive instinct'

"What is the meaning of a life sentence? In many cases, culprits are released on parole even after committing heinous crimes... I am truly shocked by the judgment in the R.G. Kar case," the Chief Minister said.

Ms. Banerjee emphasised that she believes this case falls under the "rarest of rare" category, deserving harsher punishment.

The court, while sparing the hangman's noose for the convict Sanjay Roy, had said in the judgment that "we must rise above the primitive instinct of a life for a life".

"Our duty is not to match brutality with brutality, but to elevate humanity through wisdom, compassion and a deeper understanding of justice," the judge noted in the order.

The judge, in his order, said that it was evident that this case does not meet the stringent criteria for being classified as "rarest of the rare" and it would be "inappropriate to accede to the prosecution's request for the death penalty".

Stringent punishment

The Trinamool Congress chairperson, however, said that if "someone is a monster, how can society show humanity?".

She pointed out that her government has passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024 which called for the death penalty in such cases.

"We kept stringent punishment in cases of acid attacks and other such heinous crimes. But the Bill is still pending as the Central government is not looking into it. We want this Bill to become a model and be implemented across the country," the Chief Minister said.

The Trinamool Congress leadership, including Ms. Banerjee, has been pointing out that in at least three cases involving rape and murder of minors that came to the fore after the R.G. Kar rape and murder, courts in West Bengal have awarded capital punishment to the convicts.

CM questions CBI probe

On Monday, the Chief Minister had also raised questions on the probe conducted by the CBI. The parents of the victim have also expressed their displeasure over the convict not being given capital punishment and that the crime fits into the category of "rarest of rare crime".

The body of the post-graduate trainee doctor was found from the seminar room of the State-run hospital on August 9 and the CBI in its chargesheet pressed charges of rape and murder on Sanjay Roy, a former civic police volunteer.

Allahabad HC curbs 'unfettered' powers of Uttar Pradesh Police

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Considering the present state of affairs, provisions regarding opening of history sheets need to be reviewed

Stating that the Uttar Pradesh Police have "unfettered" power to implicate anyone for any offence and open a history sheet against the person, the Allahabad High Court on Monday asked the State government to put in place reasoned orders on the process, yearly review and consideration of objections by the accused.

The observations were made by a Bench of Justices Siddharth and Subhash Chandra Sharma while hearing a petition moved by four persons challenging the opening of a history sheet against them by the Noida Police in the State.

Against Constitution

Stating that the police has unfettered power to implicate anyone on the basis of any offence by making a report to the higher police authority for opening Class-B history sheet, the court noted that the police are clearly acting against the mandate of the Constitution laid down under Articles 14, 19 and 21 on the basis of pre-Independence regulations.

"Considering the present state of affairs, rampant false implications, because of personal and political rivalry, provisions regarding opening of history sheets need to be reviewed," the court said.

Furthermore, the court pointed out that while guidelines were issued on November 3, 2022, for Class-A history sheets, no similar guidelines existed for Class-B.

The judges ordered the State government to amend procedures for opening history sheets, ensuring individuals can object before a senior police official.

"The State government will also provide for review of the history sheets opened against the citizen, every year, so that in the cases where implication of persons against whom history sheet was opened and who have been subsequently exonerated/acquitted of the criminal charges, their history sheets are closed and shadow of surveillance by police on their life and liberty gets removed," the order further reads.

'Competent' to judge Indus Water Treaty dispute, says World Bank Neutral Expert

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Neutral Expert (NE) appointed under terms of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), 1960, decided that he was "competent" to decide on differences between India and Pakistan on the design of hydroelectric projects built on the Indus Treaty rivers. India, in a statement, on Tuesday "welcomed" the move.

The decision on January 7 by Michel Lino, the World Bank appointed NE, which was made public via a press release on Monday, however does not help resolve a demand by India in January 2023 to renegotiate the IWT but only keeps alive the differences between the two countries on the dispute resolution mechanism, laid out under the terms of the treaty.

Last September, *The Hindu* had reported that India decided there would be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), made up of representatives of both countries until the IWT was renegotiated. The last meeting happened in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but is yet to receive a formal response.

Work in progress on the Kishen Ganga Hydro Electric Power Project in North Kashmir district of Bandipora in 2012. NISSAR AHMAD

Differing stance

The dispute resolution mechanism laid out under the terms of the IWT – as India interprets it – says that disputes must first attempt to be resolved by the PIC. If they do not succeed, the matter would be weighed by the World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert. If this fails too, the matter would be decided by a Court of Arbitration. However, while India has held that each step must be fully exhausted before both sides agree to moving on to the next step, Pakistan has moved on without waiting for India's concurrence.

Initially, both countries seemed to agree on the World Bank appointing a "neutral expert". Pakistan in 2016 asked for a Court of Arbitration. The World Bank first ruled that having a neutral expert and court together could lead to "contradictory outcomes". However, in 2022, it facilitated the setting up of an expert as well as a chairman to the Court of Arbitration. India has refused to attend proceedings in the Court of Arbitration at The Hague. Pakistan has maintained that it is working within the terms of the treaty, whereas India says the treaty does not allow such parallel dispute mechanisms.

The press statement, issued on Tuesday, said that while the NE could under the terms of the treaty decide on technical disputes it did not invalidate the existing Court of Arbitration.

In the days ahead, Mr. Lino is expected to hear both India and Pakistan and decide on whether design parameters of the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects conform with the IWT.
(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

Two held in rape-murder of minor in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The disrobed body of a minor girl was recovered from a field near her home at Basanti in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas on Monday.

The victim's family filed a rape and murder complaint, leading to the arrest of two local youth, who were allegedly known to the victim.

The victim, a Class 8 student, had been missing since January 9.

The body was discovered after a local worker sensed something buried underground.

Meanwhile, protests have erupted among the local people in the area who allege that the minor was gang-raped.

SC dismisses Jharkhand's appeal against BJP MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday confirmed the quashing of a case of criminal trespass registered against found BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey, Manoj Tiwari and others for entering the Air Traffic Control (ATC) room at Deoghar Airport in Jharkhand three years ago.

However, a Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka allowed the State Police to hand over investigation materials to authorities under the Aircraft Act of 1934 within a month.

The top court had questioned the State's case of criminal trespass.

"How is criminal trespass committed here? Was there any intention to intimidate?" Justice A.S. OKa asked in December.

Draft UGC rules limit State role in V-C selection: JD(U)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Key NDA ally Janata Dal (United) expressed reservations over the new University Grants Commission (UGC) draft regulations that give a bigger role to the chancellors, who in most cases are State Governors, in appointing Vice-Chancellors of State universities, arguing that it will impact the State's own road map for higher education.

Janata Dal(U) national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad, speaking to *The Hindu*, said that limiting a State's role in these appointments will be a roadblock in State government efforts to draft a road map for higher education. "We have not read the draft resolution of UGC entirely, but from whatever is being reported so far, we do have a concern about limiting the role of elected governments in appointment of Vice-Chancellors. This will impact the State government's road map for higher education," Mr. Prasad said.

Rajiv Ranjan Prasad

However, Mr. Prasad refused to comment on whether the JD(U) has reached out to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the issue. But he agreed that the government should consider introducing amendments.

Several non-BJP State governments have criticised the move. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday said that several provisions in the draft UGC regulations were "in conflict with the State's educational system and policies" and urged Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to withdraw these regulations.

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the draft regulations that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said was against federal principles.

The BJP and the Union government have been justifying the UGC draft guidelines on faculty appointments. Mr. Pradhan, countering the Opposition's charges, had said that the present regulations are in the same format as that of the UGC regulations of 2010 on appointing VCs.

SC asks if poll ban on persons causes harm

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked whether a ban on persons charged with heinous offences such as murder and rape from contesting elections will lead to irreversible damage if they are later found innocent after trial.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh said there were also reliefs in law if elected persons were later found guilty of serious crimes.

Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay submitted that the right to campaign and contest were not fundamental rights.

Justice Kant asked how many honest people come forward to contest, stressing national introspection.

The petition will be heard on January 27.

APPEAL

Praveen is 11 years old suffering from B cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia and requires chemotherapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to meet this crisis. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai** Will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027/31523781.**
E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Extra security camps to be established to tackle Maoists

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As part of a continued offensive against the Maoists, the Central security forces and police aim to establish 88 additional security camps in Left Wing Extremism affected States, a senior Home Ministry official said on Tuesday.

The official added that since 2019, a total of 290 security camps have been set up in the LWE affected States, mostly in Chattisgarh and Odisha. Last year, 48 such camps were established.

Explaining the significance of such camps, another government official said that it helps the security forces in planning operations against the armed Maoist cadres and fill the security vacuum in an area.

Since 2017-18, ₹3,503.29 crore has been released by the Ministry under the Special Central Assistance scheme for the 12 most LWE affected districts.

In second manifesto, BJP promises free education

Ahead of Delhi polls, party announces scholarship for SC students, addresses auto and taxi drivers and domestic workers; adds that it will come up with collaborative solutions with the Centre

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday released the second part of its three-part Sankalp Patra (manifesto) for the February 5 Delhi Assembly election. The latest instalment promises free education for students in need from kindergarten to postgraduation ("from KG to PG") in government institutions, and collaborative solutions for Delhi's issues with the Centre and other States.

Releasing the manifesto, Lok Sabha member Anurag Thakur said the party would bring a "zero tolerance" attitude against corruption and arrange for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into major scams of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including those related to DTC, Mohalla Clinics, classrooms and excise policy.

Announcing plans: BJP leaders Anurag Thakur, Virendra Sachdev and others releasing the manifesto in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

The party has also promised financial support for competitive exam aspirants, including a one-time assistance of ₹15,000 and reimbursement of travel costs and application fee for up to two attempts.

Similar to the AAP's Dr. Ambedkar Samman Scholarship, which promises scholarships for Dalit students wishing to pursue higher education abroad, the BJP's manifesto has promised a Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stipend Scheme, which will give SC students in Industrial Training Institutes, skill centres and polytechnics ₹1,000 a month.

Welfare Boards

In another similar poll promise, the BJP has offered welfare Boards for auto and taxi drivers, as well as life insurance of ₹10 lakh and accident insurance of ₹5 lakh. Additionally, the party is promising scholarships for children of auto and taxi drivers. The AAP has promised financial assistance, accident insurance up to ₹15 lakh and ₹1 lakh for daughters' wedding.

The party has also promised a welfare Board for domestic workers, life insurance of ₹10 lakh and accident insurance of ₹5 lakh, scholarships for their children and paid maternity leave (six months).

In the first manifesto, it had promised ₹21,000 and six nutrition kits for pregnant women; cooking gas at ₹500; free cylinders on Holi and Deepavali; ₹10 lakh free treatment under Ayushman Bharat for all; monthly pension of ₹2,500 (ages 60-70) and ₹3,000 (ages 70+); and nutritious meals at ₹5 in Atal Canteens.

Law panel's UCC paper ignored, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the State's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) rules have been approved and will be implemented, the Congress on Tuesday said the 22nd Law Commission had been wound up before it could submit its report on the UCC.

Referring to the commission's 182-page consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law", Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that Para 1.15 says: "While diversity of Indian culture can and should be celebrated, specific groups, or weaker sections of society must not be dis-privileged in the process. Resolution of this conflict does not mean abolition of all differences. This commission has therefore dealt with laws that are discriminatory rather than providing a UCC which is neither necessary nor desirable."

WHO chief urges U.S. to reconsider its decision to exit

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

After President Donald Trump's announcement that the U.S. would exit the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO, said he hoped the country would reconsider the decision.

In a statement on Monday, Dr. Ghebreyesus said, "We hope the United States will reconsider and we look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue to maintain the partnership between the U.S.A. and the WHO."

Mr. Trump cited the global health agency's "mishandling" of the COVID-19 pandemic and other international health crises as reasons for the exit. Stating that American institutions have both contributed to and benefited from membership in the WHO, the global health agency expressed its regret over the announcement.

Dr. Ghebreyesus said the United States had been a founding member of the WHO in 1948 and had participated in shaping and governing the WHO's work ever since, alongside 193 other member states. For over seven decades, the WHO and the U.S. had saved countless lives and protected Americans and all people from health threats.

"Working together the world has seen the end of smallpox and brought polio to the brink of eradication," it added, stating that with the participation of the United States and other Member states, the WHO has over the past seven years implemented the largest set of reforms in its history.

India is also among the top 10 global contributors of core funding to the WHO and has committed to give more than $300 million for the organisation's core programme of work from 2025 to 2028.

India, France to work together on maritime surveillance in IOR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and France have agreed to explore opportunities for coordinated surveillance whilst deployed to counter threats to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The two countries also committed to supporting each other in maritime security engagements.

"Both sides agreed to strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation such as implementation of the agreed framework of exchange of information through enhanced information exchange between Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region, Gurugram and Regional Coordination Operations Centre, Seychelles and Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, Madagascar in the IOR,"

Threats such as piracy, contraband smuggling and illegal fishing to be monitored

the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement after the seventh India-France maritime cooperation dialogue held recently.

India and France agreed to develop a joint assessment of the threats to maritime security in the region; to counter illicit maritime activities, including piracy and armed robbery, maritime terrorism, contraband smuggling, illegal and unregulated fishing; hybrid as well as cyber security threats and marine pollution, the Ministry said. Officials said the efforts for coordinated surveillance will be to address these kind of threats.

India, France discuss civil nuclear issues ahead of PM's visit to Paris

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and France have agreed to boost cooperation in "high-end technology sectors", as senior officials held Foreign Office consultations in Paris, and discussed long-pending civil nuclear cooperation issues ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit next month.

A delegation, led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and including newly appointed Indian Ambassador to France Sanjeev Singla, met French Secretary-General for Europe and Foreign Affairs Anne-Marie Descôtes and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot.

Mr. Modi will travel to Paris for a Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence on February 10 and 11. Officials also discussed the Prime Minister's programme and bilateral agenda during the visit. Last week, a French Minister had announced that India will "co-chair" the summit.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with Secretary-General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Anne-Marie Descôtes. PTI

Mr. Misri and Ms. Descôtes held a meeting of the India-France Special Task Force on Civil Nuclear Energy, which was decided during Mr. Macron's visit to India last January. In the joint statement issued a year ago, the two sides had agreed to convene the Special Task Force "within three months".

Jaitapur project

In particular, talks between the two sides have not resolved issues on the much-delayed Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project in Maharashtra, despite a revised techno-commercial offer being made by French energy company EDF (Electricite De France) in 2022.

India and France signed a civil nuclear agreement in 2008 and inked the first MoU for the 990-MW Jaitapur plant in 2009. Officials have said that the high project cost, time overruns and the continuing logjam over India's civil liability law (Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010) are among the issues still being discussed on the Jaitapur project, even as India and France look towards cooperating on Small Modular Reactor in the future.

In a statement issued after the talks, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the two sides held talks on a number of areas of bilateral cooperation including "defence, civil nuclear energy, space, cyber and digital and AI".

Modi 'outsourced' Manipur crisis: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Manipur's Statehood Day, the Congress on Tuesday accused him of "abdicating" his responsibility by "outsourcing" the crisis in the State to Union Minister Amit Shah while "stubbornly refusing" to visit the strife-torn State.

Within hours of the Prime Minister wishing Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura on X, on the occasion of their Statehood Day, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a dig at him over the continuing ethnic conflict in Manipur.

"His Statehood Day greetings are hollow and reflect his hypocrisy - which knows no limits," he said in his X post. "Outsourcing Manipur to the Union Home Minister is an abdication of Prime Ministerial responsibility and has proved disastrous," he added. Mr. Ramesh said the PM had "stubbornly refused to visit" Manipur.

Rahul slams Modi govt.'s economic policies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Narendra Modi government's economic policies, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asserted that real development was when there was a fair environment for business and a fair tax system, workers' income increases and everyone progresses.

"The truth of Modi*ji*'s developed India: Your hard work, whose profit? The wheel of the country's economy is turning with your sweat and blood, but are you getting your fair share in it? Just think," he said in a post on X. The real income of workers has remained stagnant or decreased in the last five years and with skyrocketing inflation, even the salaried class is forced to take loans, he said.

In the run-up to the Union Budget, the party has been demanding tax relief for the middle class, income support and measures to boost investment.

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The D.G (P&D Department), KMC invites e-tender/quotation online expression of interest of lower bidder for the following work:

NIT No. : KMC/D.G.(TPDD)/05-1/2024-2025

Name of the work: **"Up-gradation and refurbishment of Brick Sewer along Judges Court Road by de-silting and GRP lining in BR-IX area".** Estimated value: **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder.** Earnest money: ₹ **10,00,000.00.** Period of completion: **24 months.** Date of pre-bid meeting: **30.01.2025 - 3 P.M.** Bid submission start date (online) on: **06.02.2025 (3 P.M.).** Last date and time of submission of bid: **05.03.2025 at 3 P.M.** The bid forms and other details are available on and from **24.01.2025 (3 P.M.)** from the website **https://etender.wb.nic.in** (1264/24-25)

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e - TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The Director General, P&D Department, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) invites online e-tender on Turnkey basis from experienced firms/companies/ individual contractors/Joint Ventures, who have successfully completed the work of similar nature of works within last 5 (five) years from the date of publication of this NIT in any Govt./Semi-Govt./Govt. Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies (constituted under the State/Central Statute)/Statutory Bodies and Local Bodies is eligible for the under mentioned work :

NIT No.: KMC/D.G.(TPDD)/C/111/2024-25 (2nd Call)

Name of Work : **Installation of Barrage with P.S. at Confluence Point of River Ganga and Tolly's Nullah**; Estimated Value : ₹ **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder;** Earnest Money : **Rs. 10,00,000.00 (Rupees Ten Lakh only)**; Period of Completion : **36 (Thirty Six) Months for Capital Works and 5 years Mandatory Operation & Maintenance period**; **Pre Bid Meeting (Date & Time) : 30.01.2025 (12 p.m.) [Place of Meeting : Office of the Director General (P&DD), KMC, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087.]**; Bid submission start date (Online) on **07.02.2025 (11.30 a.m.)**; Last Date and Time of submission of Bid : **05.03.2025 at 03.30 p.m.**; Bid opening date and time for technical proposal (Online) : **07.03.2025 at 03.30 p.m.** The bid forms and other details are available on and from **24.01.2025 (11.30 a.m.)** from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in** 1263/24-25

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SAMAGRA SHIKSHA**

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2. Procurement & Supply of Chemistry Lab Equipment to 244 type-III KGBVs and 3. Procurement & Supply of Botany & Zoology to 116 types-III in the State.
RFP downloading starts from : **24-01-2025 @ 03.00 PM**
Last date for receipt for of RFP : **10-02-2025 @ 05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact: **7075159996, 775039990.**

B.Srinivasa Rao, I.A.S.,
State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh.

DIPR 3477PP/CL, Dt.21-01-2025

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Complex, Dhanavantri Road, Bengaluru - 560 009
No: EE/GNR/TEND/E-PROC/008/2024-25 Date: 21.01.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(SINGLE COVER & TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Ward Nos.	Est Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)	No. of Works	Category
Reserved for SC (Single Cover System)					
1.	125 (2nd Call)	15.00	30,000/-	01	SC
Reserved for ST (Single Cover System)					
2.	128 (2nd Call)	15.00	30,000/-	01	ST
3.	127 (2nd Call)	30.00	45,000/-	01	ST
Reserved for Others (Single Cover System)					
4.	125 (2nd Call)	30.00	60,000/-	01	Others
5.	126 (2nd Call)	30.00	60,000/-	01	Others
6.	126 (2nd Call)	25.00	50,000/-	01	Others
7.	128	25.00	50,000/-	01	Others
Reserved for SC (Two Cover System)					
8.	123	100.00	1,50,000/-	01	SC
Reserved for ST (Two Cover System)					
9.	125	100.00	1,50,000/-	01	ST
Reserved for CAT-1 (Two Cover System)					
10.	123	100.00	1,50,000/-	01	CAT-1
Reserved for Others (Two Cover System)					
11.	122 (2nd Call)	50.00	1,00,000/-	01	Others
12.	122	50.00	1,00,000/-	01	Others
13.	123	50.00	1,00,000/-	01	Others
14.	127	50.00	1,00,000/-	01	Others
15.	123 (2nd Call)	100.00	2,00,000/-	01	Others
16.	126 (4th Call)	100.00	2,00,000/-	01	Others
17.	124	150.00	2,25,000/-	01	Others
18.	126	150.00	2,25,000/-	01	Others
19.	127	150.00	2,25,000/-	01	Others
20.	128	150.00	2,25,000/-	01	Others
21.	125	180.00	1,60,000/-	01	Others
22.	Construction of BBMP Divisional and Improvements to Zonal Office Building in Ward No-123 Gandhinagara (Package-1) **Est Cost ₹.500.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,00,000+ (4,00,000 Bank Guarantee)**				
23.	Repairs and Improvements to BBMP Parks Samudhaya Bhavan Toilets and Burial Ground in Gandhinagara Sub Division (Package-4) **Est Cost ₹.500.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,00,000+ (4,00,000 Bank Guarantee)**				

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is **13.02.2025** upto **4:00** Hrs. (2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid is **15.02.2025**upto **12:30** Hrs. (3) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid (Will be intimated through KPPP)
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagara Division

INBRIEF

Saif Ali Khan discharged from hospital after two surgeries

After a five-day stay, actor Saif Ali Khan was discharged from Lilavati Hospital on Tuesday following two surgeries to treat injuries sustained in a knife attack during a burglary attempt at his residence in Mumbai. Shariful Islam Shahzad allegedly stabbed him and caused him six injuries, harming his thoracic spine. Doctors performed surgery to remove a 2.5-mm knife piece, said Dr. Nitin Dange. Security has been increased at Mr. Khan's residence. Technicians were installing CCTVs, while the balcony and windows were secured with grilles. The police have gathered 19 fingerprints from the house and took Mr. Shahzad to recreate the crime scene.

Govt. warns NGOs of action over funds without FCRA

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday warned non-governmental organisations (NGOs) of penal action if they receive foreign funds without registration under the Foreigners Contribution Regulation Act, 2010. FCRA registration is mandatory to receive foreign donations. In a public notice, the Ministry said that each FCRA-registered NGO or association has to utilise foreign contribution (FC) for the purpose for which it has been registered or granted prior permission under the Act. It added that no person shall accept FC unless such a person obtains a certificate of registration or prior permission from the Union government.

Indian fact checkers to keep working with Meta

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Indian fact-checking organisations that work with Meta Platforms received a reprieve of a few months at least, as the Facebook and Instagram parent has decided to hold off on replacing them on its services.

In an interview with *Bloomberg* on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's Davos meeting, Meta's head of global business, Nicola Mendelsohn, said that "for now", fact-checking partnerships outside the U.S. would remain intact even as the firm shifts to "Community Notes" in its home country.

There is "nothing changing in the rest of the world at the moment; we are still working with those fact checkers around the world", she said.

The statement comes as fact-checking organisations in India worry about their future as Meta casts them as a censorship-enabling institution. The shift has worried these firms as the partnership with Meta, which features their fact checks on posts featuring misinformation that has been flagged by the company's systems, is a significant source of revenue to finance their operations.

Ties must be viewed from a long-term perspective: Beijing

Chinese Foreign Ministry was reacting to Jaishankar's recent remarks in Mumbai; China says both countries need to engage in cooperation

Press Trust of India
BEIJING

India and China should handle the bilateral ties from a "strategic height and long-term perspective" while implementing the common understanding reached by the leaders of the two countries, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The Ministry was reacting to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's recent remarks that the India-China relationship is trying to disentangle itself from the complications arising from the post-2020 border situation and more thought needs to be given to the longer-term evolution of the ties.

"We need to view and handle the bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, bring the relations back to the track of healthy and stable development, and find the right path for big, neighbouring countries to live in harmony and develop side by side," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here.

> We need to bring the relations back to the track of stable development, and find the right path for nations to live in harmony
> **GUO JIAKUN**
> Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Delving into various aspects of New Delhi's relations with Beijing over past decades, Mr. Jaishankar, in his Nani Palkhivala memorial lecture in Mumbai on January 18, said "misreadings" by past policymakers, whether driven by "idealism or absence of realpolitik", has helped neither cooperation nor competition with China.

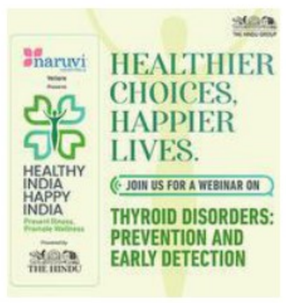
That has changed in the last decade, he said, adding that mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity should remain the basis of the relationship between the two sides. He said that more thought needs to be given to the longer-term evolution of ties.

Responding to a question on Mr. Jaishankar's remarks, Mr. Guo said that as two major time-honoured civilisations, developing countries and emerging economies, China and India need to focus on development and engage in cooperation.

This serves the fundamental interests of over 2.8 billion people of the two countries, meets the common aspiration of regional countries and peoples, goes along with the historical trend of the Global South growing stronger, and is conducive to peace and prosperity and the wider world, he said.

Webinar on thyroid disorders to be held on January 26

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



During the session, experts will offer information on prevention and early detection of diseases

Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, is hosting a webinar on "Thyroid disorders: prevention and early detection" at 11.30 a.m. on January 26.

This is the third of a 15-part webinar series organised as part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative.

The webinar series is aimed at "Preventing illness, promoting wellness".

Webinar topics

During the webinar, Aravindan Nair, consultant general and endocrine surgeon, Naruvi Hospitals, will give an introduction to thyroid disorders and malignant conditions, while Tushar Yashwant Sonavane, consultant, general endocrine and laparoscopic surgeon, will speak on benign thyroid tumours.

Sai Krishna Chaitanya P., consultant endocrinologist, will speak on thyroid function tests, hypo and hyperthyroid conditions (including thyroiditis), diet and thyroid.

Pooja Ramakant, Professor, Endocrine Surgery Department, King George's Medical University, Lucknow, will speak on thyroid disorders in pregnancy.

Soma Basu, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu,* will moderate the session.

To register for the webinar, log on to newsth.live/HIHIUIE or scan the QR code.

More such sessions to be conducted as part of the series will address topics such as mental health, nutrition, and disease prevention, with expert speakers from various fields.

An interactive website will offer valuable resources, tips, and a platform for individuals to share their success stories.

Court orders seizure of M.F. Husain's paintings from Delhi Art Gallery

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday ordered the seizure of paintings of Hindu deities by M.F. Husain displayed in the Delhi Art Gallery. The paintings showed Hanuman and Ganesha holding nude female characters in their hands and on the lap.

The orders came on a complaint filed by advocate Amita Sachdeva, who demanded the removal of the "offensive" paintings.

The order, issued by Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Sahil Monga of the Patiala House Court, said the application was allowed in light of the facts and circumstances mentioned. "IO [investigating officer] is directed to seize the said painting and file a report on 22.01.2025," the court order reads.

The complainant, in her social media post, had said that she had clicked photos of the "offensive" paintings displayed at the Delhi Art Gallery at 22A Windsor Place, Connaught Place on December 4, 2024 and filed a complaint on December 9 at the Parliament Street police station.

The complainant in the Delhi court has called paintings by the venerable artist M.F. Husain 'offensive'. AFP

"However, during a visit with the IO to the Delhi Art Gallery on December 10, 2024, the paintings were removed and [it was] falsely claimed they were never displayed. The Delhi Police has not yet registered an FIR against the Delhi Art Gallery and its Directors for exhibiting nude paintings of Hindu deities. It's unclear if the police have preserved the CCTV footage from 4th to 10th December, as requested in my application, to determine who removed the paintings and why," the complainant said in her social media post on X.

Following this, she filed an application under Sections 175(3), 223, and 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Act, seeking the registration of an FIR and the preservation of CCTV footage of the Delhi Art Gallery for the period between December 4 and 10.

Seized CCTV footage

The police, during the hearing, submitted in the court that the investigating officer has already seized the CCTV footage and the network video recorder (NVR) of the Delhi Art Gallery.

"It is further stated in the ATR that a list of paintings was provided by Delhi Art Gallery in which the paintings in question are mentioned at Serial No. 6 and 10. It is further stated in the inquiry report that the exhibition was held in a private space and the said paintings were only to display the original work of authors/artists," the judge further said in his order.

SC panel notice on year-old plaint of caste discrimination during IIT campus placements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Complaint was filed following a string of suicides of Scheduled Caste students on two IIT campuses

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has taken up a complaint of caste discrimination at the hands of the campus placement offices in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Delhi and Bombay, more than a year after it was filed in November 2023.

Issuing notice to the Directors of both institutions on January 15, the NCSC has asked the Union Education Ministry to file an action-taken report with regards to the complaint filed by Dheeraj Singh, education activist and alumnus of the institutes.

The notice comes within days of the Supreme Court taking up a case of rampant caste discrimination within higher education campuses across the country and asking for the University Grants Commission to provide details of all such complaints.

The complaint to the NCSC was filed against the background of a string of suicides of Scheduled Caste students at the two IITs, which had triggered a wave of complaints from students and alumni about discriminatory practices on campus, including mandatory revelations of their caste category for campus placements, as reported by *The Hindu* at the time.

In the complaint, Mr. Singh said that he had evidence of discriminatory practices by the institutes that had affected at least 300 SC students for the placement year 2023-24. He attached screenshots of the placement office forms of the institutes, which required students to disclose their socioeconomic category and JEE rank – both identifiers of caste.

Complaint on track

Officials said that the complaint was on track to be processed as per procedure but due to technical glitches, a bunch of complaints had to be handled manually. As a result, it took time for the commission to get to this complaint.

The IITs and the Ministry have been given 15 days to respond to the NCSC's notice on the complaint.

DRDO holds key test for hypersonic missiles

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a crucial milestone in the development of next-generation hypersonic munitions, the DRDO has successfully demonstrated a cutting-edge active cooled scramjet combustor ground test for the first time in India. This is the effort to develop a long-duration supersonic combustion scramjet powered hypersonic technology.

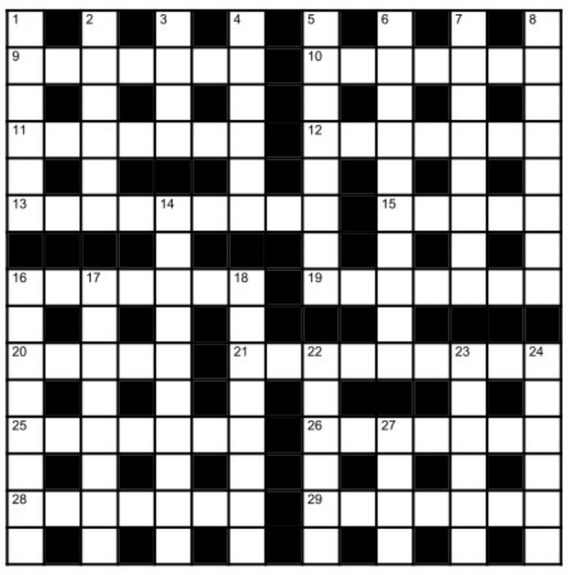
The key to hypersonic vehicles is scramjets, which are air breathing engines capable of sustaining combustion at supersonic speeds, the DRDO said. "The ground test of scramjet combustor showcased several achievements, demonstrating its potential for operational use in hypersonic vehicles, like successful ignition and stable combustion".

TH CROSSWORD + 14388

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Certain about recipe! A little odd (7)
10 Fathom atmosphere was mostly yielding primarily in part of the golf course (7)
11 Medico having tattoo primarily urges piercer to finish (5,2)
12 Reversion of property is key, to be given to Cook (7)
13 Conducting prayers to welcome stranger in Stepney (5,4)
15 Say, horse with a gait held by little rope that's knotty (5)
16 Rapid repetition of a note heard at motel or compound (7)
19 Queen's fruit (7)
20 Soldier's dad is hungry, yellow at the front and light-headed (5)
21 Disagreement in divorcing redhead? A lie primarily, imaginary (9)
25 Security for luggage beginning to go at retreat (7)
26 Perfect idli with some chutney, only half eaten (7)
28 Shame; one French dame primarily going topless (7)
29 Why cow is running inside house (3,4)

Down

1 Departures of teams after one (6)
2 Seamen in charge taken by drivers to plant (6)
3 Summit with Pakistan about engagement in the front (4)
4 During take off opposed hanging (6)
5 Helpers on one side make mistake about direction on safety first (8)
6 I will be in a Colombian city after picture to get mixed vegetable pickle (10)
7 Adorable ape excited with plant (8)
8 With length cut off hairstyle damaged in panic (8)
14 Adhesive expires on year-end? Incorrect (5,5)
16 Dressed to kill, drove with girls inside getting excited (6,2)
17 The Spanish TV character to act in an imaginary place of wealth (8)
18 Bad scene, not visible to audience (8)
22 Leaders claiming laxity, indulgence, corruption, haughtiness? Exactly platitude (6)
23 British admiral remembered at 1.11 (6)
24 Pendant in ladies bag broken off in the front (6)
27 Open space at the end of Puducherry, one to keep worker's leader (4)

SUDOKU

5		7					8	
				3	1		6	
	6	4				5		
8		5	3					
7				2				5
					9	6		7
		3				2	5	
	2		6	4				
	5					4		9

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	S	T	R	A	L		I	M	P	U	D	E	N	T
	N		E		O		C		A		A		E	
F	A	L	L	I	B	L	E		R	E	N	O	W	N
	I		I		S		C		S		G		C	
B	L	A	C	K	T	H	O	R	N		E	L	A	N
					E		L		I		R		S	
R	E	N	D	E	R	E	D		P	R	O	N	T	O
	D		A								U		L	
B	U	R	I	A	L		O	V	E	R	S	T	E	P
	C		R		A		R		A					
L	A	D	Y		N	E	G	A	T	I	V	I	S	M
	T		F		T		A		A		I		K	
M	I	R	A	G	E		N	O	B	E	L	I	U	M
	O		R		R		I		L		E		L	
M	N	E	M	O	N	I	C		E	E	R	I	L	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	9	8	5	6	2	3	4
2	3	6	7	4	9	5	1	8
8	5	4	2	3	1	7	6	9
5	2	3	9	8	4	1	7	6
4	6	7	1	2	5	8	9	3
9	8	1	3	6	7	4	2	5
3	4	2	6	1	8	9	5	7
6	7	5	4	9	2	3	8	1
1	9	8	5	7	3	6	4	2

FAITH

Karma and worship

Devotion can be of two types – through one's knowledge or intelligence, and through one's consciousness. The former is compared with a baby monkey holding its leaping mother with a firm grip, while the latter is akin to a mother cat holding her kitten by the jaw in order to transfer it. The first one is risky because the baby monkey will fall if its grip loosens. In the second, the kitten remains free of tension.

Lanka Sri Jeyaraj said in a discourse that deeds carried out in previous births, bundled as karma (destiny), play a pivotal role in a person's life. It is worth pondering why good men suffer in poverty while the envious prosper (Aviya Nenjathan – Kural 169).

Thiruvalluvar has devoted a chapter exclusively to describe the cause and effects of our previous deeds. Saint Arunagirinathar says that we can count even the particles of sand in the seven seas but not the number of births to which we have been subjected due to our karma.

Four forms of worship are prescribed – Chariya, Kriya, Yoga, and Jnana. Chariya refers to virtue and selfless service. It is the path to servitude. Kriya denotes deep devotion through Bhakti. While Chariya is an external mode of worship, Kriya is internal. Yoga represents the process of unifying with God within oneself. It is an inner discovery. Jnana is divine wisdom emanating from an enlightened being. Each form of worship does not compete with the others but rather complements them.

A coconut sapling takes several months to sprout, whereas green gram sprouts in a few days. The mode of worship differs from person to person based on past deeds.

INBRIEF

Hyundai Motor India achieves 92% manufacturing localisation

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said on Tuesday it has achieved 92% localisation in manufacturing and started local assembly battery-packs at its new facility within the Chennai manufacturing unit, showcasing its commitment to 'Make in India'. The Hyundai Creta Electric becomes the first model to be equipped with locally assembled battery packs from the plant, it added. "Localisation efforts have led to forex savings of $672 million since 2019," the firm noted.

UCO Bank Q3 net rises 27% to ₹639 crore, NPAs slide

UCO Bank reported a 27% year-on-year growth in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31, to ₹639 crore. Operating profit rose 41.7% to ₹1,586 crore. Gross NPAs fell 94 basis points (bps) to 2.91% while Net NPAs reduced by 35 bps to 0.63%. Capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.25% Total business stood at ₹4,88,911 crore, an increase of 12.3% wherein gross advances rose 16.4% to ₹2,08,655 crore while total deposits grew 9.36% to ₹2,80,256 crore, the bank said.

MSTC transfers 100% stake in FSNL to Konoike Transport

The strategic disinvestment of FSNL, a wholly owned subsidiary of MSTC Ltd., concluded on Tuesday with the transfer of full shareholding to Konoike Transport Co. Ltd., the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said. In September last year, the government approved the privatisation of FSNL to Japanese corporation Konoike Transport Co. Ltd. for ₹320 crore. Following this, a share purchase agreement was signed in October. PTI

Trump effectively pulls U.S. out of global corporate tax deal

The U.S. President directs the Treasury to identify 'protective measures' on tax; collapse of 'Pillar 1' talks may revive digital services' levies

Reuters

President Donald Trump on Monday declared that a global corporate minimum tax deal "has no force or effect" in the U.S., effectively pulling America out of the landmark 2021 arrangement negotiated by the Biden administration with nearly 140 countries.

Mr. Trump, in a presidential memorandum issued hours after taking office, also ordered the U.S. Treasury to prepare options for "protective measures" against countries that have – or are likely to – put in place tax rules that disproportionately affect American companies.

The European Union, Britain and other countries have adopted the 15% global corporate minimum tax, but the U.S. Congress never approved measures to bring the U.S. into compliance with it. The U.S. has a roughly 10% global minimum tax, part of Mr. Trump's landmark 2017 tax cut package approved by Republicans.

But countries that adopted the 15% global minimum tax may be in a position to collect a "top-up" tax from U.S. companies paying a lower rate.

Mr. Trump's memo referred to such actions as "retaliatory."

"Because of the Global Tax Deal and other discriminatory foreign tax practices, American companies may face retaliatory international tax regimes if the United States does not comply with foreign tax policy objectives," the memo reads.

"This memorandum recaptures our nation's sovereignty and economic competitiveness by clarifying that the Global Tax Deal has no force or effect in the United States."

After years of stalled talks on global tax issues hosted by the Paris based-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to end competitive reductions in corporate tax rates, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen agreed to the deal in October 2021.

Mr. Trump's Treasury nominee Scott Bessent said on Thursday that following through with the global minimum tax deal would be a "grave mistake."

First cut: The U.S. has a roughly 10% global minimum tax, part of Mr. Trump's landmark 2017 tax cut package. REUTERS

Sharing taxing rights

Another part of the OECD negotiations were aimed at a new arrangement to share taxing rights on large, profitable multinational companies with countries where their products are sold.

The effort was aimed at replacing unilateral digital services taxes that target largely American technology firms from Meta Platforms' Facebook to Apple.

But these so-called "Pillar 1" talks largely stalle and without U.S. participation, countries including Italy, France, Britain Spain and Turkey may be tempted to reinstate their digital taxes, risking retaliatory tariffs from Washington.

Notes from Davos

Chandrajit Banerjee

The first day of the 2025 World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting began with Alpine sunshine casting a golden glow over the snow-lined Promenade in Davos. By day two, the temperatures dipped further, but the bustling energy on the streets stayed undeterred.

This year's theme, "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age", feels tailor-made for India. As the fastest-growing economy, India is setting benchmarks in areas like digital transformation, renewable energy, and innovation. From transforming global fintech, green hydrogen leading the clean energy transition, and leading discussions at global fora such as G20 and QUAD, India's story aligns perfectly with the five interconnected priorities of the WEF - Rebuilding Trust, Reimagining Growth, Safeguarding the Planet, Investing in People, and Industries in the Intelligent Age.

India's delegation is impactful, with four Union Cabinet Ministers and two Ministers of State, and a strong presence of States, led by the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

For over four decades, CII has proudly carried the Indian flag at Davos, showcasing the nation's and India Inc's evolving story on this global stage. Aligned to this year's WEF agenda, the curtains were also raised on CII's theme of "Partner with India Inc.: Subscribe to the Future". There is a strong India Inc. presence with over 80 industry leaders from across sectors and scale.

As I walked into the Congress Centre for my meetings, it was equally abuzz, kicking off with the Crystal Awards and the opening concert. During the day, the centre witnessed parleys on geoeconomics, reimagining growth and mapping productivity solutions.

A notable highlight was the focus on rebuilding trust amid geopolitical tensions and policy shifts as US withdraws from the Paris Climate Agreement and the establishment of an "External Revenue Service". Safeguarding the Planet was a recurring theme as well. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen declared, *"The world is undergoing an energy transition that is unstoppable."* India's leadership in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and sustainable living through Mission LiFE mirrors this sentiment which echoed on the streets of Promenade.

Walking back through the snow-laden streets, one thing was clear - India isn't just participating in Davos 2025, it is taking centre stage, redefining what collaboration in the Intelligent Age looks like - and perhaps converting a few delegates into *chai* enthusiasts along the way at the India Lounges - perfect places for an "India Adda".

(The writer is the Director General of Confederation of Indian Industry, CII)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	75,838	-1.60
US Dollar	86.58	-0.15
Gold	82,100	0.12
Brent oil	79.50	-0.27

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2384.30	-58.50
Adani Ports	1106.20	-42.50
Apollo Hosp	6919.15	138.30
Asian Paints	2260.35	-20.20
Axis Bank	970.20	-17.85
Bajaj Auto	8468.55	-75.85
Bajaj Finserv	1717.00	-18.20
Bajaj Finance	7291.65	-148.45
Bharat Elec	279.00	-6.80
Bharti Airtel	1626.15	-15.00
BPCL	280.20	2.90
Britannia Ind	4903.85	18.45
Cipla	1428.00	-17.45
Coal India	381.55	-5.50
Dr Reddys Lab	1288.15	-14.20
Eicher Motors	4969.95	-46.80
Grasim Ind	2367.50	-34.50
HCL Tech	1802.40	6.20
HDFC Bank	1642.40	-8.85
HDFC Life	624.00	-10.05
Hero MotoCorp	4024.80	-67.30
Hindalco	614.95	-3.20
Hind Unilever	2340.50	-4.70
ICICI Bank	1196.15	-36.80
IndusInd Bank	960.45	-10.25
Infosys	1800.70	-12.60
ITC	437.55	-0.15
JSW Steel	926.85	7.65
Kotak Bank	1893.30	-27.20
L&T	3541.10	-51.90
M&M	2821.30	-66.80
Maurti Suzuki	11883.70	-136.35
NestleIndia	2196.45	-17.55
NTPC	324.30	-11.75
ONGC	265.80	-3.56
PowerGrid Corp	302.35	-3.90
Reliance Ind	1273.70	-31.75
SBI Life	1466.55	-33.15
State Bank	759.05	-20.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	520.30	3.60
Sun Pharma	1762.70	-15.55
TataConsumerProduct	972.10	11.80
Tata Motors	760.75	-13.60
Tata Steel	129.70	-1.96
TCS	4035.85	-41.95
Tech Mahindra	1640.50	-34.10
Titan	3353.35	-28.90
Trent Ltd.	5736.95	-353.05
UltraTech Cement	10667.80	43.35
Wipro	298.35	-1.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.38	86.70
Euro	89.42	89.75
British Pound	105.79	106.19
Japanese Yen (100)	55.37	55.58
Chinese Yuan	11.86	11.90
Swiss Franc	94.82	95.18
Singapore Dollar	63.50	63.75
Canadian Dollar	59.82	60.05
Malaysian Ringitt	19.29	19.38
Australian Dollar	53.75	53.96

Source:Indian Bank

SEBI looking to allow trading prior to listing

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to put in place a system wherein investors can sell allotted shares before listing them in the exchanges in a move aimed at curbing post-IPO grey market activity.

"We feel that if any investor wants to do that [sell shares] why not give them that opportunity in a proper regulated way," SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said at an event organised by the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) on Tuesday.

Ms. Buch said discussions were on with stock exchanges to put in place the "when listed" facility whereby shares can be traded during the three days between allotment and listing.

India Cements logs ₹116.52 cr. in Q3 net

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The India Cements Ltd, a subsidiary of UltraTech Cement Ltd. of the Aditya Birla Group, reported a ₹116.52 crore consolidated net profit in the third quarter of 2024-25, rebounding from a consolidated loss of ₹6.58 crore a year ago. However, sales fell to ₹940.81 crore from ₹1,144.46 crore.

Export hit, job losses spur fresh scheme to revive diamond trade

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry on Tuesday introduced a new Diamond Imprest Authorisation (DIA) scheme to allow duty-free import of natural cut and polished diamonds for export purposes, acknowledging that India's diamond industry is witnessing a steep decline in exports and job losses and pinning hopes on the DIA to combat this trend and reinvigorate the sector.

Value-added exports

To be implemented from April 1, the DIA allows the import of diamonds of less than ¼ carat or 25 cents, with the mandate that they be exported with a value addition of 10%.

"Diamond exporters having Two Star export house status and above, having $15 million exports per year, are eligible for availing benefit under this scheme," the Ministry said.

"The scheme is in response to beneficiation policies undertaken in natural diamond mining countries like Botswana, Namibia and Angola, where diamond manufacturers are obliged to open cut and polishing facilities for a minimum percentage of value addition," it said.

Govt. begins search for trial sites for air taxis

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre has begun the task of identifying trial sites for air taxis or electric-vertical take off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

Officials said the visits covered "Gujarat and another State", and are being carried out by an expert team of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India and industry players in eVTOL space.

"We are looking at a regulatory sandbox within India. DGCA officials have started field visits to firm up sites where trials can take place," Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, said at the Urban Air Mobility Expo organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, UDAIPUR
Nit No.: MCU/Garage/2024-25/E-17/1315 Date :- 17/01/2025
Notice Inviting Bid
The MCU invites online bids for Procurement of items mentioned below from interested/ eligible bidders up to 10-02-2025 up to 06.00 PM. detailed particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state and on the website **www.udaipur.org.**
UBN No. : UNP2425WSRC00168

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (In Lakh)
1	Deployment of Machinery & Manpower for Comprehensive Operations and Maintenance of 30 TPD Composting Plant at Titardi, Udaipur for 5 Years .	398.50

Raj.Samwad/C/24/10592 Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Commissioner

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
Deemed To Be University
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Website: www.nia.nic.in
VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 2/2024
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS
Online Applications were invited for 12 Posts of **Assistant Professor** in different Subjects by publishing Vacancy Notification No. 2/2024 in Employment News, National Level Hindi and English Newspapers and Website of the Institute.
The Last Date for Receipt of Applications for these Posts is hereby extended till 5 PM on 7-3-2025 (Friday). Rest of the Vacancy Notification will remain the same.
Dated: 20-01-2025 (JP SHARMA) JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No: MESCOM/IT/79/2024-IT/1248 Date: 20.01.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)
MESCOM invites the tender from the prospective bidders for **"Selection of vendor for opening retail outlets for sale of Smart Meters on rate contract basis in MESCOM Jurisdiction"** vide Tender Enquiry No: **MESCOM/2024-25/SE0106.**
The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **27.01.2025.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91- 8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address: support@eprochelpdesk.com.
DIPR / MNG / 1225/ MPL / 24-25 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Projects)
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030
Corrigendum
Extension of last date for Submission of Application for Ph.D. in Rural Development (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi).
The last date for submission of application forms for Ph.D. in Rural Development (JNU) is hereby extended to **4th February 2025.**
For details please visit: **www.nirdpr.org.in**,
Contact: Email: **phd@nirdpr.org.in**, Mobile: **9700936499**
Advt.No.02/2025 Sd/-
Comp.no.15822 P&H, CPGS&DE

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(REGD. OFFICE: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, PATIALA)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number: 0175-2207769)
Tender Inquiry No. 573/DB-228/2025 Dated: 20-01-2025
Dy. CE/Billing (under O/o Chief Engineer/IT), PSPCL, Room no. 208, 2nd Floor, 3 Storey Building, The Mall, Patiala invites E-Tender for Selection of Service Provider for Meter reading/Spot Billing in 105 no. Operation (DS) Divisions for DS & NRS up to 20 KW (including Solar & Temp) consumers with non-smart meters for the period of 2 years with the provision to extend the same for further 3 years on yearly basis subject to satisfactory performance of the service provider. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer the website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **22-01-2025**, 11:00 AM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C-43/25 76155/12/3832/2023/40995

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
Telephone No. 0145-2628475 FAX No. 0145-2970247
e-mail: aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F.()/Ar. MP/2024-2025/12918-927 Date: 3/1/2025
CORRIGENDUM-1
NIT NO. 04/2024-2025
In continuation to this office NIT No. 04/2024-2025, issued vide this office letter No. 11259-11308 dated 16.12.2024 for the work of **"Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Shahpura and Jahajpur, District Shahpura including 05 Years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0 (NIT No. 04/2024-25; Estimated Cost Rs. 1676.85 Lacs)."** following amendments are hereby notified:

As Per Published Information	Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 07.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.	Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 15.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.
UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07102
(Ram Chandra Rar)
Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/519/2025 PHED, Region, Ajmer

RAJASTHAN RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Office: E-166, Yudhister Marg, C-Scheme,Jaipur 302001,Rajasthan Phone No. 0141-2225859, 2229341
E-mail:eccellrrec @gmail.com website:http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrecl
NIB: REC2425A0033
(NIT No.TN-16/RREC/2024-25)
Tender are invited for supply of Induction Cooktops with one year of comprehensive warrantee in Rajasthan. The complete bid document can be viewed and downloaded from e-procurement portal https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, SPPP Portal (https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/sppp/) and RRECL website (https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrecl/).
Bid submission End date: 05-02-2025, 05:00 PM. **UBN: REC2425GLOB00032**
Raj.Samwad/C/24/10615 Director (Technical)

Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd.
(Office: Engineer-in-Chief/ P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana.)
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-61158)
Tender Enquiry no. 16/CE/P&M /2024-25
EIC/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 1275 no. SCADA compatible Numeric 30/C + 1 E/F Relays. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **21-01-2025** from 11:00 hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
C-40/25 76155/12/3829/2023/40991

Office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police
No. 1, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Phone: +91-80-22943058, Email: ctrs1co@ksp.gov.in
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement Portal)
Tender No: KSP/2024-25/IND0265, Date: 18/01/2025
Additional Director General of Police and Commissioner, Traffic and Road Safety, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Automated Traffic Signal System at 50 New Junctions in Mysuru City through e-procurement portal. **Estimated Bid Value: Rs.9.64 Crores**. Pre-bid Meeting is on 28/01/2025 at 11:30 Hrs. The Last date and time for tender submission is 17/02/2025 at 17:00 Hrs. Further details can be obtained by visiting e- procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For more information, please contact the above office.
Sd/-
Additional Director General of Police and Commissioner, Traffic and Road Safety, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4455/AKAR/2024-25

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
Petition No. 477/TL/2024 Dated: 20.1.2025
NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003
An application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **POWERGRID Neemuch Transmission System** Limited, B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110016 for the grant of a separate RTM Transmission Licence to POWERGRID Neemuch Transmission System Limited for "Transmission System for enabling interconnection of REGS at Neemuch S/s" under the Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) mode (hereinafter referred to as the 'transmission project'). The scope of the project for which a separate transmission licence has been sought is as under:
Transmission Scheme: "Transmission System for enabling interconnection of REGS at Neemuch S/s"

S. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Capacity/ km	Implementation timeframe
1.	01 No. of 220kV bay at Neemuch S/s for RE Interconnection [ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (2200000709) for 300MW]	220 kV bays- 1 no.	31.1.2026
	Total Estimated Cost:		**Rs 5.57 crores**

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 14.11.2024 has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 17.1.2025 in Petition No. 477/TL/2024, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **POWERGRID Neemuch Transmission System Limited** before the Commission can be accessed at the **www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **4.2.2025** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **6.2.2025.** Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.
Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

WASHINGTON

Musk raises eyebrows with salute gesture at Trump's inauguration

REUTERS

Billionaire Elon Musk sparked controversy on Monday after making a gesture at an event celebrating U.S. President Donald Trump's inauguration, with some calling it a "Nazi" or "fascist" movement. He had appeared on stage at the Capital One Arena in Washington, where supporters of Mr. Trump had gathered for a rally. REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Israel Army chief Halevi quits over 'failure' to stop October 7 attack

REUTERS

The head of Israel's military, Lt. General Herzi Halevi, quit after taking responsibility for "failure" to stop Hamas's October 7 attack, days after a truce took effect in Gaza. He acknowledged, however, that the goals of the Gaza war "have not all been achieved", adding the Army would "continue to fight to further dismantle Hamas". AFP

KABUL

Afghan Taliban swap two U.S. citizens for a member of group

AFP

The Taliban government said it had released two U.S. citizens from prison in return for an Afghan fighter held in the U.S. , in a deal brokered by Qatar. Discussions about the prisoner exchange were confirmed last year, but the swap was announced after outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden handed over to Donald Trump. AFP

ISTANBUL

66 dead, 51 wounded in blaze at popular ski resort in Turkiye

REUTERS

The death toll from a fire that engulfed a hotel at a popular ski resort in northwestern Turkiye on Tuesday rose to 66, officials said. Some 238 guests were registered at the hotel in Kartalkaya, 170 km northwest of Ankara. 51 others were wounded in the blaze that happened at 3:27 a.m. at the 12-storey Grand Kartal hotel. AFP

Putin, Xi reiterate their close ties after Trump swearing-in

We jointly support the development of a more just, multipolar global order, and work to ensure indivisible security in Eurasia and the world, the Russian leader tells his Chinese counterpart

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke on Tuesday with Chinese President Xi Jinping and emphasised their close ties a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th U.S. President. The two leaders discussed their prospective contacts with Mr. Trump's administration during the video call, the Kremlin said.

They have developed strong, personal links that brought their relations even closer after Mr. Putin sent troops into Ukraine in 2022. China has become a major Russian oil and gas customer and a source of key technologies amid sweeping Western sanctions on Moscow.

Timely ties: Vladimir Putin speaks with Xi Jinping via video call at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow on Tuesday. AP

In the call with Mr. Xi, Mr. Putin emphasised that Russia-China relations are based on shared interests, equality and mutual benefits, noting they "don't depend on internal political factors and the current international environment."

"We jointly support the development of a more just, multipolar global order, and work to ensure indivisible security in Eurasia and the world," Mr. Putin told Mr. Xi.

Mr. Xi similarly praised their close cooperation, expressing his readiness to work together with Mr. Putin to "lead China-Russia relations to a higher level," and to "safeguard international fairness and justice."

He emphasised that Russia and China should "deepen strategic cooperation, and safeguard the legitimate interests of the two countries."

Trump's exit from Paris Agreement 'threatens' future of renewable energy

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

On Monday, the first day of his second Presidency, Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the U.S. from the historic 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The withdrawal of the world's second largest polluter would further undermine the losing battle to keep global emissions in line to prevent global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the future of renewable energy, say experts.

In 2016, when Mr. Trump won the election and had moved to withdraw the U.S. from the pact, the exit did not formally take place, thanks to the way the Paris Agreement rules were framed.

Near miss: Donald Trump had tried to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Accord in 2016 when he first came to power. AFP

However, this time, the U.S. can exit within a year of formally conveying this to the UN, which Mr. Trump did on Monday.

"It remains to be seen how matters will play out this time. Despite President Trump's withdrawal, there have been large delegations of U.S. observers who have participated in every climate meet and play a significant role. Should Trump bar their participation in future meets things would be different," T. Jayaraman, Senior Fellow, Climate Change, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, told *The Hindu*.

Given Mr. Trump's support for oil and gas drilling, experts say a greater cause of concern was over what his second term would hold for investments in renewable technology.

"Multilateral Development Banks are unlikely to continue focusing on climate finance, which is essential for developing countries. Given the veto the U.S. holds in the World Bank, it may force the World Bank to move away from climate financing," said Labanya Jena, sustainable finance specialist.

Other experts have warned of ecological consequences. "The bigger risk is the exploitation of sensitive regions such as Alaska, which are detrimental to global climate stability," said Manjeet Puri, of The Energy Resources Institute.

Sri Lankan media spotlights Dissanayake's 'balancing act' with Beijing and New Delhi

NEWS ANALYSIS

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Following Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's recent, four-day visit to China, analysis and commentary in local media pointed to the leader's "balancing act" with Beijing and New Delhi.

During Mr. Dissanayake's state visit from January 14 to 17, close on the heels of his India visit in December 2024, he announced a $3.7 billion investment – "one of our largest FDIs" – from Sinopec for a refinery in the southern Hambantota district. Meanwhile, addressing a public rally of supporters following his return, Mr. Dissanayake said his government is discussing a joint venture with India to refurbish Second World War-era oil storage tanks in the eastern Trincomalee district and develop it as a hub.

Around Mr. Dissanayake's visit, Sri Lanka and China issued a 21-point joint statement, covering various bilateral matters. Sri Lanka sought more Chinese investment, and the two sides committed to the early conclusion of a comprehensive free trade agreement. While the joint statement made no mention of Chinese marine research vessels calling at Sri Lankan ports, an issue New Delhi remains highly sensitive to, the two sides agreed to continue maritime cooperation, and "pool their strength to build a maritime community with a shared future."

In its coverage since, Sri Lankan media pointed to the comparable, red-carpet honour and ceremonial welcome accorded to Mr. Dissanayake in both New Delhi and Beijing. In its latest editorial, *Sunday Times* observed that the two joint statements, issued with the governments of India and China, were "similar in content and intention".

A cartoon by Awantha Artigala, which was published in Sri Lanka's *Daily Mirror* newspaper recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Wooing Sri Lanka'

"Both aspirants for global power status and leadership roles in the Global South are wooing Sri Lanka through a strategic lens: India through its 'Neighbourhood First and SAGAR' framework and China through the BRI," the editorial noted.

Meanwhile, Colombo-based analyst and disinformation researcher Sanjana Hattotuwa highlighted Sri Lanka's "careful diplomatic balancing" in both statements. Sri Lanka's joint statement with India focused heavily on "specific development projects" and "granular implementation details", while its statement with China emphasised cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative and broader economic frameworks, he observed.

Following announcements on agreements inked with China, some detractors slammed the Dissanayake government for merely taking forward predecessor governments' initiatives with India and China, or for "compromising" Sri Lanka's interests.

Pubudu Jayagoda, from the Frontline Socialist Party – formed in 2012 by a breakaway faction of Mr. Dissanayake's Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna – accused the government of allowing India to control Sri Lanka's north and east, and China to control the southern parts of the island, Tamil daily *Virakesari* reported on Tuesday.

Acclaimed Sri Lankan cartoonists, often among the boldest and most astute commentators on domestic politics and economy, too, expressed their take on the competing interests of India and China in their recent cartoons, highlighting the tricky balance act facing Mr. Dissanayake, who has pledged to follow a non-aligned foreign policy.

Gaza truce intact despite scepticism from Trump

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israel-Hamas ceasefire entered a third day on Tuesday, while U.S. President Donald Trump said he doubted the fragile deal would hold.

Desperately needed humanitarian aid has begun to flow into war-battered Gaza after Israel and Hamas conducted the first exchange of hostages for prisoners agreed under the terms of the ceasefire.

Gazans displaced by more than 15 months of war have been walking through an apocalyptic landscape to return to whatever remains of their homes, while rescuers trawl the rubble for bodies.

"Gaza is like a massive demolition site," Mr. Trump said as he signed a flurry of executive orders following his inauguration.

'Not our war'

Asked whether he believed the two sides would maintain the truce, Mr. Trump said: "That's not our war; it's their war. But I'm not confident." Mr. Trump had claimed credit for the three-phase truce announced ahead of his return to the White House by Qatar and the U.S., following months of fruitless negotiations under his predecessor Joe Biden.

Mr. Trump has made clear he would support Israel, and in one of his first acts as President, he revoked sanctions on Israeli settlers in the West Bank imposed by the Biden administration over attacks against Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas both congratulated Mr. Trump on his return.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notice of Inviting E-Tender

E-Tender Notice. SNT-JP-19-2024-25 Dated-20.01.2025 DRM(S&T)/North Western Railway/Jaipur, for and on behalf of President of India invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. **1. Name of work with its location** : Signalling work in connection with TTR (CS +TWS+CMSC - 150 set) over Jaipur Division. **2. Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 1,50,17,382.56/- **3. Bid security** : Rs. 2,25,100.00/- **4. Date & Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in** : 13.02.2025 Up to 15.00 hrs. **5. Website particulars & Notice board location** : www.ireps.gov.in and DRM office/NWR/ Jaipur

81-DR/25

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client **Sri.Raju C, S/o.Sri. Chikkanna, Residing at: No.31/1, 9th Main Road,** Shivanagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560 010, has lost the last page Original Release deed dated: 24-08-2023, registered on 24-08-2023, registered as document No.SHIV-1-04488-2023-24, registered in the Office of the sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore, jointly executed by Sri. Manjunatha C. and Smt.Shashikala in favour of Sri.Raju C., in respect of immovable residential property bearing **Site No.519, present Municipal No.603/567/519, situated at Kasavanahalli,** Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, while taking Xerox copy of the same near Basham Circle Rajajinagar. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 21-01-2025, lost report No.1439788/2025. If anybody found the said document please contact this **Nos.9844155041, 9740396946 and 9886091223.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : 080-22223949, 9844155041.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. N. Mahadeva Prasad son of S. Nanjundaswamy,** residing at No.979, 10th B main, 4th E Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 23-08-1980, duly registered as Document No.2277/1980-81, Book I, Volume-679, Pages 231-233, at SRO, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 21-01-2025 vide Lost Report No. 1440102/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal **No.1115/38,** New No.38, Old No.1115, measuring East to West 15.5 feet and North to South 16.45 feet, situated **03rd Cross Road, Srirampura, Bangalore,** together with building constructed thereon, and bounded on: **East by : Property belongs to Mr. Narayana Rao; West by : Previously property belongs to Mr. B.M. Raghunatha, Presently shop belongs to Mrs. Nagalamba; North by : 3rd Cross Road; South by : Private Property.**

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436 / 8123124113
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

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KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436 / 8123124113
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821- 2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for the following works including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years through DBOT mode. (Lumpsum tender – No Variation).

Sl. No.	Name of work	APT amount in Rs. lakhs	Indent No
1	Improvements of water supply system to Koppa town under AMRUT 2.0.	2775.77	KUWSDB/2024-25/ WS/WORK_INDENT293
2	Improvements of water supply system to Srirangapatna town under AMRUT 2.0.	1833.14	KUWSDB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT294

Further details may be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS/1135/KSMCA/778/2024-25

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080 25310066
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is" where in sale had been fixed on 24.01.2025 to inform that the sale has been postpone to 24.02.2025 (10.00 AM to 10.30AM),** for recovery of **Rs.45,70,00,000 as on 04.12.2024** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. M/s Amalor International Limited,** 609, 6th Floor, Hong Kong Plaza, 188, Connaught Road West Hong Kong. **2.M/s Maderamelta Reha, 3.Mr. Muniswamy Suresh Kumar**, both are residing at: No 2, MSK Square, 13th Cross, CT Bed Extn, BSK II Stage, Bangalore-560070. **Also At:** No.389 Anugraha 11th A Cross,25th Main, 41st Phase J P Nagar, Bangalore-560078. **Also At,** No 96/D, 6TH Main, 4th Cross, Jayanagar, 5th Block, Bangalore-560041. **M/s Maderamelta Reha, Also At,** No.23 Anugraha, 33rd Main, 5 B, Block, Bhavani HBCS Banagiri Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085.**Mr. Muniswamy Suresh Kumar, Also At,** No 471/16, 39th Cross, 10th Main Jayanagar, 5th Block, Bangalore-560041. **4.M/s MSK Sheltrs,** No. 2, MSK Square, 13th Cross, Attimabbe Raod, CT Bed Extn, Banashankari, 2nd Stage Bangalore-560070.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **21.02.2025, 5.00 pm** **(₹.In Lakhs)**

Sl No	Description of the Immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land vide official Memorandum dated 01-02-2014 bearing reference number ALN.SR.(CHI) SAKALA 249/2013-14 by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura in survey number 142 comprising of 97 Villa plots measuring 11912.35 Sq.mtr out of total extent of land measuring 5 Acre 6 Guntas and 16 Guntas of A Kharab or 22460.05 Sq.mtr (Duly excluding 10547.70 Sq.mtrs of land relinquished for civic amenities, park and road infrastructure) situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District in the name M/s MSK Shelter. Boundaries of the Schedule: East by: Sy No.127 & 144, West by: Sy No. 139 & 140, North by: Sy No. 136,South by: Sy No. 145 **Coordinates of the property Latitude-13.3552129, Longitude-77.6873251**	₹. 1176.57	₹. 117.66	₹. 1.00
2	All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land vide official Memorandum dated 17.09.2012 bearing reference number ALN.SR.(CHI) SAKALA 15/2012-13 issued by the office of the deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura in survey number 139 measuring 4 Acre 30 Guntas out of which 82 Villa Plots are formed covering a total extent of 9874.02 Sq.mtr, Situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballpura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. Boundaries of the Schedule: East By: Land in Sy. No.138, West By: Road, North By: Land in Sy. No.170, South By: Sy No. 140 **Coordinates of the property Latitude-13.3557468, Longitude-77.6867369**	₹. 396.76	₹. 39.68	₹. 1.00

Note: The person who bids has to bid for both lots

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 21.01.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

THINK TANK

Hardik is part of the leading group, says Suryakumar

FILE PHOTO

Suryakumar dwelt on his equation with Hardik Pandya. "The relationship with Hardik has been great. He is part of the leading group. When we sit to decide what we want to do in a match and also on the field he is always around. It's like we have a lot of captains on the ground," said the Indian skipper.

ADMIRATION

Jos Buttler highlights the exciting Jacob Bethell's talents

REUTERS

Jos Buttler was all praise for Jacob Bethell. "We know the talent that he possesses. He was a name that you'd hear talked about, that he's going to be a special player. He has done brilliantly well coming into international cricket. He has got a good head on his shoulders," said the England skipper.

BEST-EVER FIGURES

Vaishnavi claims record as India thumps Malaysia by 10 wickets

X@ICC

Left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma claimed 5/5 as India thrashed Malaysia by 10 wickets in the ICC U-19 Women's World Cup in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.
The scores: Malaysia 31 in 14.3 overs (Vaishnavi 5/5 (incl hat-trick) lost to India 32/0 in 2.5 overs (Trisha 27 n.o.). **PoM:** Vaishnavi.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

ICC chairman Jay Shah meets IOC chief Thomas Bach

@ICC

ICC chairman Jay Shah has held discussions with IOC president Thomas Bach ahead of the Extraordinary IOC Session in Lausanne from January 30, as cricket's inclusion at the Olympics beyond 2028 Los Angeles games continue to gather pace. Cricket last featured in the Olympics at the Paris Games in 1900.

All eyes on Shami in the series opener at Eden Gardens

Focus will also be on coach Gambhir following the two Test-series defeats; while the venue has a reputation of staging high-scoring duels, evening dew may impact decision-making and the course of the play

ENG IN IND

Y. B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

With the change in colours of the ball and clothing, India, mostly with a different set of personnel, will be keen to live up to its World champion's tag in the five-match T20I series against England, dubbed as 'SKYball' vs 'Bazball,' and redeem some pride following its Test series debacle in home and away against New Zealand and Australia respectively.

Challenges

As the two sides need to switch fast from T20 to ODI cricket through eight matches over 22 days before taking a plunge in the prestigious Champions Trophy, a 50-over competition, in less than a month's time, the Suryakumar Yadav-led home side will have a few challenges on hand when the series begins at the Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

Pace ace Mohammed Shami's return to international cricket after 14 months' lay-off due to injury is much-awaited.

Raring to go: Shami is returning to international cricket after 14 months. R.V. MOORTHY

As Jasprit Bumrah is doubtful for the Champions Trophy, Shami's fitness will be closely watched. T20 heroes Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill have been rested, whereas Nitish Kumar Reddy, the find of the tour Down Under, seamer Harshit Rana and wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel have a chance to shine.

Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma, Suryakumar, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya and Rinku Singh in batting and Shami, Arshdeep Singh and first-time vice-captain Axar Patel in bowling may play key roles.

The focus will also be on coach Gautam Gambhir who has faced some criticism after the two Test series defeats.

Familiar turf

The doughty Delhiite, who coached India to T20 series wins over Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, has captained and mentored Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to title wins in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and will look forward to his familiar turf and format to guide India to some positive results and revive his credibility.

England coach Brendon McCullum, a former KKR player and coach and the England Test team's coach for more than two years, has taken over as the white-ball coach of an international side for the first time and will be up for a new test.

McCullum's entry has triggered the expectation of 'Bazball' cricket spicing up England's limited overs game and reviving its fortune in limited-over World Cups.

While Phil Salt, Ben Duckett, skipper Jos Buttler and Harry Brook will be the leading batters for the visiting side, the bowling department will have the likes of Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Gus Atkinson and Adil Rashid. Promising all-rounder Jacob Bethell with the experienced Liam Livingstone will provide balance. Several English players' IPL exposure should help the side.

While Eden Gardens has a reputation of staging exciting high-scoring duels, evening dew may impact decision-making and the course of the play.

The teams (from):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel (vice-capt.), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammad Shami, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk).
England: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Ben Duckett, Phil Salt (wk), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Gus Atkinson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

Want to be flexible with the batting order: Suryakumar

Lending balance: Hardik could be used as a floater in the Indian batting line-up. R.V. MOORTHY

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Captain Suryakumar Yadav thinks the Indian team is moving in the right direction under coach Gautam Gambhir.

Remembering his days when he donned the Kolkata Knight Riders colours and played under Gambhir's captaincy in the IPL, Suryakumar said, "I have played under Gauti bhai for four years. I have spent a lot of time with him, I know how he works. Even he knows how to talk to each other. It started from the Sri Lanka series... We are moving in the right direction.

"He keeps it simple and gives a lot of freedom. He lets the players express themselves inside (the ground). He knows what goes on in the minds of the players, keeps the atmosphere light and relaxed in dressing room."

Suryakumar said the Indian batting line-up would be flexible in the five-match T20I series against England, starting at the Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

"We want to be very flexible with the batting order. Other than the openers, from three to seven or eight, everyone needs to be really flexible with their batting," said Suryakumar on the eve of the series opener.

"Anyone can go at any time. We have been practising for that. It will be changing with the matches."

Suryakumar backed Sanju Samson for the wicketkeeper-batter's job. "Currently, there is no question mark on the wicketkeeper. Sanju has done really well in the last seven-eight or 10 matches he has played. He has really shown what he is capable of," said the India skipper.

Buttler. R.V. MOORTHY

Buttler looking forward to working with McCullum

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

England captain Jos Buttler looked forward to working with Brendon McCullum, the new white ball coach.

On the eve of the five-match T20I series opener against India, Buttler said building the captain-coach alliance would be his priority.

"It's not a new set-up because Baz (McCullum) has been around for a while and obviously there are a lot of players in this squad who have been with him in the Test set-up for a number of years already. Just looking forward to building that relationship in the white ball set-up," said Buttler.

He added the team management had not spoken about future big events and remained focused on the present.

UP Rudras moves to top of the table after win over Team Gonasika

HIL

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

UP Rudras climbed to the top of the Hockey India League (HIL) standings after a 2-0 win over Team Gonasika here on Tuesday. Gonasika's semifinal hopes took a big blow with just two matches left.

Tanguy Cosyns and Kane Russell struck in the third quarter with their drag-flicks to take Rudras over Tamil Nadu Dragons in the points table and help complete a league double over Gonasika.

Cagey opening

Both Rudras and Gonasika are among the lowest-scoring sides in the league and it was a cagey opening in the first half with nothing to separate the two sides. It was a battle for midfield supremacy which the Rudras dominated, thanks to their skipper Hardik Singh, Cosyns and Floris Wortelboer.

In the second quarter, Rudras had a promising opening after Hardik intercepted a pass in midfield and made a piercing run through the middle. He passed it to Gurjot Singh up front and continued sprinting down the left, hoping for the return pass but it never arrived, leaving Hardik visibly frustrated as a rare opening was squandered.

Happy bunch: UP Rudras players celebrate a strike. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The half ended with a flurry of penalty corners (PCs) for Rudras which Gonasika goalkeeper Oliver Payne did well to avert danger. But the decision to award the PCs didn't please Gonasika as head coach Paul Revington and defender Tim Howard remonstrated with the referee when the hooter went off.

Revington had more reasons to be upset after the break when his team went behind.

Victor Charlet had a forgettable few minutes when he fluffed his drag-flick at one end, before being sucked into a dummy at the other end during his duties as a first rusher. Russell cleverly slid the ball behind him to Cosyns who sounded the board with his drag-flick.

Gonasika looked to respond immediately through a PC, but James Albery and Wortelboer brilliantly combined to keep the ball from going into the goal with the latter clearing the ball off the line.

Rudras sealed the points when Russell's low drag-flick found a way past Suraj Karkera, who had replaced Payne in goal, as he couldn't get a strong enough hand to keep the ball out.

The result: UP Rudras 2 (Tanguy Cosyns 37, Kane Russell 40) bt Team Gonasika 0.

Warriors prevail over Soorma in the shootout

Santadeep Dey
RANCHI

An unstoppable force met an immovable object on Tuesday as the Women's Hockey India League table-toppers clashed at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Stadium here.

It needed a shootout to separate JSW Soorma Hockey Club (0) and Odisha Warriors (2) after an hour of regular play didn't disturb the net.

The Warriors went on to win their second shootout 2-0 after Sonika and Kaitlin Nobbs slotted home.

Soorma would have been the more confident of the two units, having won 2-1 in the reverse fixture on January 15 and registered the biggest victory this season (5-1 against Delhi SG Pipers) only the previous day.

Sore thumb

But it wasn't to be, as Soorma's weakness against penalty corners stuck out like a sore thumb yet again. Coming into the contest, it had the worst conversion rate – 6.3% – among all teams in the league.

The figures plummeted further as it missed all seven shots at getting a lead.

The Warriors, too, made a meal out of its two penaly corners.

Although Yibbi Jansen was on the pitch on both occasions, her drag flicks were rendered ineffective by Savita Punia.

Earlier, Neha Goyal's side was looking to get an early breakthrough by sending in long balls in search of the solitary forward who had parked herself inside the opponent's half.

However, the ploy fell flat as Soorma defender Maria Verschoor kept a weather eye on any loose ball inside the Soorma circle.

The best opportunity for the Warriors came up with 10 minutes remaining on the clock.

Neha Goyal pierced the midfield and fed the ball to Rutuja Pisal on the left.

While Savita managed to put the first attempt out, Neha almost ended up getting a touch on the rebound.

The result: JSW Soorma Hockey Club 0 drew with Odisha Warriors 0. *Warriors bt Soorma 2-0 in shootout.*

Elation: Odisha Warriors players are delighted after coming out on top. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Pragg posts a fine win over Arjun, shares the lead

TATA CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

R. Praggnanandhaa scored a fine victory over compatriot Arjun Erigaisi to share the lead with Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov with 2.5 points after the third round of the Tata Steel chess tournament here.

D. Gukesh played out a draw with top seed Fabiano Caruana of USA

The results (round 3): Masters: Anish Giri (1) drew with Vladimir Fedoseev (1.5); Fabiano Caruana (2) drew with D. Gukesh (2); R. Praggnanandhaa (2.5) bt Arjun Erigaisi (0.5); Leon Luke Mendonca (0.5) drew with P. Harikrishna (1.5); Max Warmerdam (1) lost to Abdusattorov (2.5); Wei Yi (1.5) drew with Vincent Keymer (2); Jorden van Foreest (1) drew with Alexey Sarana (1.5).
Challengers: Aydin Suleymanli (2) bt Divya Deshmukh (0.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (2.5) bt Nodirbek Yakubboev (1.5); Nogerbek Kazybek (1.5) beat R. Vaishali (1.5); Miaoyi Lu (2.5) bt Svane Frederik (1.5); Ediz Gurel (2) bt Arthur Pijpers (0.5); Oro Faustino (1) bt Irina Bulmaga (0); Erwin L'Ami (2.5) bt Benjamin Bok (1.5).

INBRIEF

Bird's feather halts action, leaves Zverev frustrated

Alexander Zverev got bothered by a bird's feather at the Australian Open and was warned for cursing during his quarterfinal against Tommy Paul. Chair umpire Nacho Forcadell called a let and ordered a replay of a point when he saw a white feather drop into Zverev's eyeline as the German player was in his backswing in the second set.

Ivanisevic quits as Rybakina's coach following her loss

Goran Ivanisevic's brief stint as 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina's coach is over now that she is out of the Australian Open. Ivanisevic, a Wimbledon winner himself in 2001, posted a brief statement on social media, saying: "After our trial period that finished with Australian Open, I wish Elena and her team best of luck moving forward."

India outplays England to clinch PD Champions Trophy

Aided by Yogendra Bhadoria's quick-fire 73 (40b, 4x4, 5x6) Radhika Prasad's four for 19 in 3.2 overs, India thrashed England by 79 runs to lift the Physically Disabled Champions Trophy in Colombo on Tuesday. India posted 197/4 in 20 overs and then bowled England out for 118. Vikrant Keni took 2/15 in his miserly three-over spell, while Ravindra Sante grabbed two wickets for 24in his four overs.

Satwik-Chirag pair advances in Indonesia Masters

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the second round of the $475,000 Indonesia Masters super 500 badminton with a clinical 21-16, 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Chen Zhi Ray and Lin Yu Chieh in Jakarta on Tuesday. Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa stamped their authority over the Thai pair of Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn and Sukitta Suwachai 21-6, 21-14 in the women's doubles opening round.

Victorious Chelsea back in the mix

Chelsea shrugged off a howler from goalkeeper Robert Sanchez to beat relegation-threatened Wolves 3-1 on Monday, ending a five-game winless run to climb back into the Premier League's top four. Chelsea moves onto 40 points, two clear of Newcastle and Man City and four behind Arsenal and Nottingham Forest. Liverpool tops the table with 50 points.

The results: Premier League: Chelsea 3 (Adarabioyo 24, Cucurella 60, Madueke 65) bt Wolves 1 (Doherty 45+5).
La Liga: Villarreal 4 (Costa 20, Baena 24, Parejo 26, Pino 28) bt Mallorca 0.
Serie A: Como 4 (Diao 5, Strefezza 44, Bijol 78-og, Paz 90) bt Udinese 1 (Payero 50).

LIVE TELECAST

Women's U-19 T20 World Cup: Hotstar, 8 a.m. & 12 p.m.
Australian Open: Afternoon session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
India vs England: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.15 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Djokovic rolls back the years to tame Alcaraz; Badosa in maiden Slam semis

Zverev keeps hopes alive with win over Paul; defending champion Sabalenka battles past Pavlyuchenkova in three sets

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

A vintage Novak Djokovic tamed Carlos Alcaraz in a late-night blockbuster to set up an Australian Open semifinal with Alexander Zverev as two-time women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka fought on.

The 37-year-old Djokovic rolled back the years at the scene of his greatest achievements on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 triumph sealed close to 1:00 a.m local time.

The Serb surged into the semifinals and a date with world No. 2 Zverev to edge closer to an 11th Melbourne crown and all-time record 25th Slam title.

With former rival Andy Murray now in his coaching corner, Djokovic was at his imperious and defiant best, cupping his ear to the crowd after winning big points. Spain's world No.3 Alcaraz will have to wait another year to get a kangaroo tattoo. He had vowed to get one if he won the Australian Open for the first time.

The 21-year-old four-time Major champion has still never been beyond the Melbourne Park last eight.

Former No.1 Djokovic extended his career advantage over Alcaraz to 5-3, having also beaten him in the Paris Olympics final in their last meeting.

Alcaraz got the better of his rival in the 2023 and 2024 Wimbledon finals.

In hot and windy conditions, Germany's Zverev defeated the American Tommy Paul 7-6(1), 7-6 (0), 2-6, 6-1 to step up his quest to win a Grand Slam for the first time.

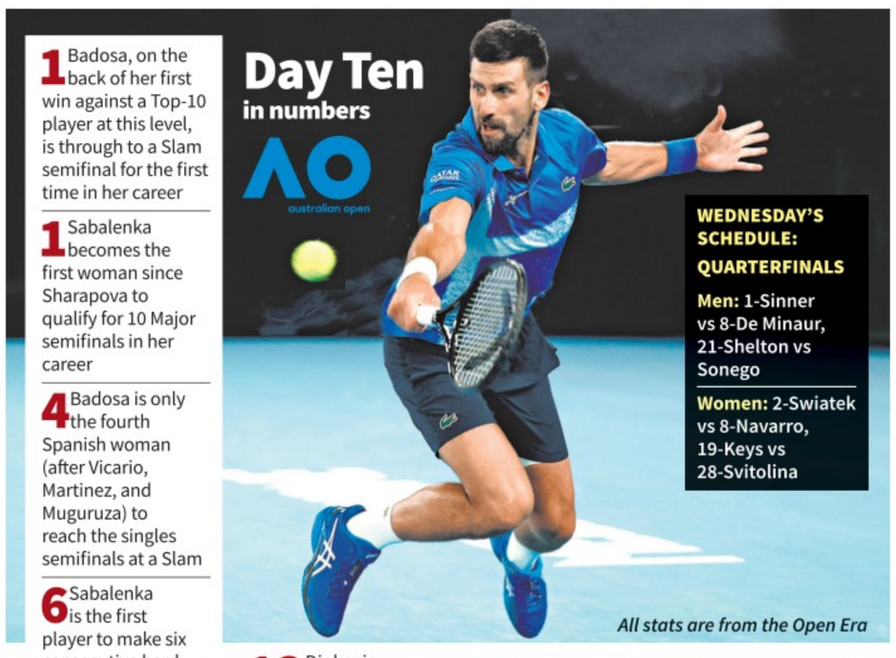
Sabalenka will face Paula Badosa in the last four as the Belarusian bids to win the Australian Open for a third time in a row. The World No.1 kept that dream alive but had to battle for it in beating Russian 27th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in the wind. Sabalenka next plays Badosa, the Spanish 11th seed who stunned world No.3 Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-4. Badosa is into her first Slam semifinal.

Bopanna-Zhang exit

Rohan Bopanna and Zhang Shuai had a match point in the super tie-break but could not close out the mixed doubles quarterfinals as home wild cards John Peers and Olivia Gadecki emerged a 2-6, 6-4, [11-9].

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 2-Zverev (Ger) bt 12-Paul (USA) 7-6(1), 7-6(0), 2-6, 6-1; 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt 3-Alcaraz (Esp) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 27-Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; 11-Badosa (Esp) bt 3-Gauff (USA) 7-5, 6-4.
Mixed doubles: Peers & Gadecki (Aus) bt Bopanna (Ind) & Zhang (Chn) 2-6, 6-4, 11-9.



COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Petroleum and Railways teams to vie for the titles in both the sections

NATIONAL TT

Amol Karhadkar
SURAT

Petroleum Sports Promotion Board's (PSPB) bid to lift the men's team championship crown for the 23rd edition in succession hit a minor bump against Delhi before they set up a final showdown against Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) in the 86th senior National table tennis championship here on Tuesday.

Yashansh Malik gave Delhi an ideal start by stunning the fancied G. Sathiyan in the opening rubber.

Promising youngster Payas Jain was on the verge of repeating the heroics on what turned out to be a below-part outing for Sathiyan. However, Sathiyan saved three match-points in the deciding game to scrape past Payas and stamp PSPB's victory.

First blood: Yashaswini gave PSPB the lead against Gujarat in the semifinals. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the other semifinal, RSPB halted the march of giant-killer Assam 3-1.

Riding on Priyanuj Bhattacharyya's heroics, Assam had ousted eighth seed Uttar Pradesh and TTFI-1 in the quarterfinals, but Anirban Ghosh made a stunning comeback after trailing 2-0 in a match dominated with long rallies to seal the deal for Railways.

Both RSPB and PSPB will also face each other in the women's team championship final.

While the PSPB girls hardly sweated against Gujarat in the semifinal, RSPB's Kaushani Nath and Poymantee Baisya had close escapes against Maharashtra's Taneesha Kotecha and Ananya Chande, respectively.

The results: Men: Semifinals: PSPB bt Delhi 3-1 (G. Sathiyan lost to Yashansh Malik 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 7-11,4-11; Ankur Bhattacharjee bt Payas Jain 11-5, 13-11, 11-8; Harmeet Desai bt Sudhanshu Grover 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5; Sathiyan bt Payas 11-9, 4-11, 5-11, 12-10, 12-10).

RSPB bt Assam 3-1 (Anirban Ghosh bt Shankab Barua 11-4, 11-7, 11-6; Jeet Chandra lost to Priyanuj Bhattacharyya 10-12, 11-7, 1-11, 6-11; Ronit Bhanja bt Agniv Bhaskar Gohain 11-4, 11-2, 12-10, Anirban bt Priyanuj 5-11, 10-12, 14-12, 11-7, 11-3).

Quarterfinals: PSPB bt Telangana 3-0; Delhi bt Tamil Nadu 3-0; Assam bt TTFI-1 3-1; RSPB bt Maharashtra 3-1.

Women: Semifinals: RSPB bt Maharashtra 3-0 (Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Senhora D'Souza 10-12, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5; Kaushani Nath bt Taneesha Kotecha 2-11, 11-4, 7-11, 15-13, 11-5; Poymantee Baisya bt Ananya Chande 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 12-10).

PSPB bt Gujarat 3-0 (Yashaswini Ghorpade bt Oishiki Joardar 11-5, 11-7, 11-8; T. Reeth Rishya bt Krittwika Sinha Roy 12-10, 11-5, 11-9; Sayali Wani bt Frenaz Chipia 11-8, 11-8, 11-13, 11-5).

Quarterfinals: RSPB bt Bengal 3-0; Maharashtra bt Haryana 3-1; Gujarat bt Tamil Nadu 3-1; PSPB bt Delhi 3-0.

Chennai to host WTT Star Contender

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The WTT Star Contender table tennis event will be held at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai for the first time from March 25 to 30. The previous two editions (2023 & 2024) were held in Goa.

The qualifying rounds will be held on March 25 and 26 while the main draw has been scheduled from March 27 to 30.

Speaking to *The Hindu* here on Monday, J. Meghanatha Reddy, Member Secretary of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, said: "We have been in talks with the license holder (Stupa Sports Analytics) for a while. Indian star Sharath Kamal played a critical role in the event coming to Chennai. We are very happy that Chennai is hosting it. It is a big step-up for us and the sport as lots of top paddlers from around the world will be participating. We are also in talks with Stupa for talent development."

Earlier, in a release, Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, said: "Hosting the WTT Star Contender in Chennai is a proud moment for TN and reaffirms our dedication to positioning the state as India's premier sports destination.

"This event not only showcases our world-class infrastructure but also inspires our youth to embrace sports as a way of life. We welcome players from around the globe and are committed to making this event a grand success."

Sharath said it's great to see world-class competition in his city: " I'm thrilled that fans here will witness world-class competition once again. I'm confident this event will inspire the next generation of Indian players."

Big win for Sporting Club Bengaluru

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Sporting Club Bengaluru blanked South United FC 4-0 in the Super Division football league on Tuesday.

The results: Sporting Club Bengaluru 4 (Neil Joseph 2, Anto Rashith 8, Bennet Babu 21, Tharun Kumar 74) bt South United 0.

FC Agniputhra 2 (Safique Ahamed 14, Azfar Noorani 25) bt Roots 1 (Victor Britto 25).

Kodagu 4 (L. Ralte 41, Aditya Pratap 79, 82, Lalkrawsmawia 86) bt ASC 1 (Tony Huidrom 43).

Bombers whips Dhyanchand

Bombers HC whipped Dhyanchand HC 8-1 in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league on Tuesday.

The results: Blue Star 'A' 3 (Akash Poovanna 4, 34, Sundhar Raj 41) bt Warriors 1 (Kaif 14).

Bombers 8 (Manoj 4, Muffin 11, 36, 48, Venkat 13, 39, Tharunraj 16, Tharun 37) bt Dhyanchand 1 (Manikantan 14).

Chennaiyin's resolute defence holds Mohun Bagan to a goalless draw

ISL

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC has had defensive lapses throughout this Indian Super League season.

However, a fresh-look backline's resolute show helped it hold league leader Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a 0-0 draw at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday.

New-recruit Pritam Kotal's entry straight into the starting line-up and skipper Ryan Edwards' return from illness clicked for the host as Bagan dropped points for the second straight match.

The first 45 minutes saw both teams employing contrasting methods to bulge the net but to no avail.

While Bagan resorted to short passes and possession-based buildup, Chennaiyin's mantra was finding Wilmar Jordan Gil from a cross or a long ball. Even though there were some shots fired at both ends, the scoreline remained intact.

Intense encounter: Jon Shields of CFC and Aldred of Bagan vie for possession. R. RAGU

The narrative continued after the break. Apart from Dimitrios Petratos hitting the side netting off a free-kick and Edwards' header going wide later in the match, the offensive side of play was dull in the second period.

CFC had to change its defenders as D. Vignesh (60th minute) and Elsinho (85th) had to be substituted due to injuries.

However, Chennaiyin, sans coach Owen Coyle, stood strong to secure a point.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 0 drew with Mohun Bagan Super Giant 0.

BFC will look to get back in the groove

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Winless in three matches, Bengaluru FC will be desperate to get its floundering 2024-25 Indian Super League campaign back on track when it meets Odisha FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday.

After a rousing start and goals galore, Gerard Zaragoza's men have scored just twice in the previous three outings and conceded in each of their last 11 fixtures. The latest disappointment was the 1-1 draw at last-placed Hyderabad FC.

Though BFC is still third in the table (28 points from 16 matches), only six points separate the second-placed side from the sixth, which means there is likely to be an almighty scrap for playoffs qualification (top-six teams).

BFC, which will miss the services of defender Rahul Bheke and forward Jorge Pereyra Diaz against Odisha, cannot afford more slip-ups.

"Against Jamshedpur FC and Mohammedan SC, we did our job but didn't finish it," Zaragoza said on match-eve about the recent twin defeats which were courtesy late goals.

"We didn't start well against Hyderabad and we got punished. Earlier, we converted chances and didn't make many mistakes. Reality is slightly different now. But we have been in the top-two or three since the start of the season and we will continue to fight," the Spaniard added.

Odisha, which thrashed BFC 4-2 in the reverse fixture in early December, has seen its fortunes nosedive too. Sergio Lobera's wards have tasted victory in just one of their last six encounters and are coming into the Garden City on the back of a 2-3 defeat away at Kerala Blasters.

But their propensity to play attacking football – matched to an extent by BFC – could result in a free-flowing game.

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Wives are easy targets, they distract from the real failings

The balance between sport and family life often becomes a scapegoat for failures on the field

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Talking point: Anushka Sharma has been drawn into conversation both when Kohli has succeeded or failed. GETTY IMAGES

At the turn of the century, England cricketer Darren Gough said that international cricket had become a single man's game. Since then tours may have got shorter, but tournaments have increased, and careers have expanded. The work-life balance remains skewed. To rephrase something an Indian CEO said recently, how long can you stare at a cricket bat on a weekend?

Sport and family life have an uneasy relationship. 'Cricket widow' is part of the game's lexicon. As the sport makes greater demands on players, enlightened administrators permit a semblance of family life while on tour.

Indian coach Gautam Gambhir has conveyed to the Board of Control for Cricket in India that the presence of wives on tour was a reason for the poor showing in Australia.

This is an effective way of taking the attention away from his own failures and focussing it on easy targets. From all accounts, a happy dressing room of recent years became an unhappy one. The major change was the new coach. Do the math.

Blaming the wife and kids for team failures reeks of toxic patriarchy. Had India won in Australia, would the wives have been given any credit?

I remember being greeted by players and media on a tour of England where Virat Kohli was struggling, with the words (spoken in a conspiratorial whisper): "You know he's got his girlfriend with him,...." As if that explained a weakness outside the off stump. Yet when he made runs in Australia and elsewhere and the same lady, his wife now, was with him, no one said, "It's because his wife is here." Players are adults and professionals and it helps to treat them thus.

Misplaced blame

There are enough cricketing reasons for India's loss – discussed in earlier columns here – including better cricket by the hosts. To blame the families is convenient. Also old-fashioned. Three decades ago, manager Ray Illingworth blamed England's loss in South Africa on the presence of families. His contemporary, the great wicketkeeper Alan Knott has said, "I have played my best cricket when I have been with my wife."

Both sportsmen and cricket boards have since become more enlightened. South Africa's coach Bob Woolmer organised shopping and sightseeing trips for wives on tour because, as he told *Wisden*, "Players didn't have to worry about whether the wife was being looked after or not and could get on with playing cricket. You'd then meet up in the evening for supper like couples leading normal lives."

The key word here is 'normal'. The attempt was to make things as recognisably routine as possible so players stayed relaxed.

Given the loneliness and frustration that are part of touring, some husbands stray, and family life is sacrificed at the altar of sport. Reporters who tour with the Indian team know about players' peccadilloes. Mohammad Azharuddin's marriage collapsed while Sourav Ganguly's nearly did when he was photographed at a temple ceremony.

Of course such things might have happened anyway. And you could argue that it is not the cricket board's job to foster relationships. But a happy player without marital problems is clearly the more effective player. Boards the world over recognise this. Which is why players are given paternity leave to be at the birth of their children like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were during recent tours.

This is a cultural change in Indian cricket. In the mid-70s, when Sunil Gavaskar was playing in the West Indies his son Rohan was born. Paternity leave was an alien concept then, and Gavaskar didn't ask for it.

Long absences affect every member of the family. Players have written about the pain of their young kids not recognising them on return from a tour or, in Phil Tuffnell's case, receiving him at the airport with a "goodbye daddy"!

"You know what you signed up for" – implied in the (written) contract between player and board or the (unwritten) one between player and family – is never a consolation.

"When I'm out on the pitch with the Australian team, I don't see them as men in the middle of a cricket match but as men in the middle of their lives," wrote skipper Pat Cummins. It is an attitude cricket boards, especially the BCCI can learn from.

The Sportstar's Focus Bihar Conclave on Jan. 24

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Sportstar Conclave caravan's third edition moves to Patna for the first-ever Focus Bihar Conclave, set to take place in the capital city on January 24.

A host of speakers will discuss key issues pertaining to the sports ecosystem in the region. Olympic bronze medal-winning boxer Vijender Singh, double-Paralympic medal-winning athlete Sharad Kumar, former Paralympic Committee of India chief Deepa Malik, AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey are among the many speakers who will feature in the event.

Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Chaudhary, will inaugurate the day-long conclave and deliver the opening address for an exercise that will bring sporting stakeholders from Bihar and outside it under one roof. The Honourable Chief Minister of the State, Nitish Kumar, will deliver the closing remarks.

The Sportstar Focus Bihar Conclave is presented by the Bihar State Sports Authority an the Department of Sports, Government of Bihar. Associate sponsors are Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the State Bank of India. Great SportsTech is the technology partner, and KPMG is the knowledge partner.

Sahaja & Vaishnavi duo crashes out

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Sahaja Yamalapalli and Vaishnavi Adkar frittered away the advantage against Fruhvirtova sisters, Brenda and Linda, in the opening round of the doubles action of the $100,000 KPB Trust Women's Open tennis at the KSLTA courts here on Tuesday.

The Indians, who fought back after the loss of the opening set, failed to close out the match and bowed out 6-2, 6-7(0), 11-9 to the Czech pair.

Ankita Raina and her partner Naiktha Bains of Britain, winners in New Delhi three days ago lost 6-3, 6-2 to Dalila Jakupovic of Slovenia and Brazil's Laura Pigossi.

India's Riya Bhatia gained a lucky loser spot in the singles main draw after the withdrawal of Japana's Sara Saito on medical grounds. Riya had retired from her final qualifier against Dalila Jakupovic.

THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. Which medal did Neeraj Chopra win at the Paris 2024 Olympics with a throw of 89.45 meters, the second-best throw of his javelin career?
2. Indian duo Ankita Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara achieved India's best result in Olympic archery, finishing _____ in the mixed team event. Fill in the blank.
3. Who became the first Indian man to reach the semifinals in Olympic badminton when he deafeated the 12th seed Chou Tien Chen of Taiwan 19-21, 21-15, 21-12 at Paris 2024?

Scan the QR code or visit sstar.news/SSAA2025AQ to take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars. Top 3 winners every day will win exciting gift vouchers*.

*T&C apply.

'SPORTSTAR ACES 2025 INDIA TRIUMPHS

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